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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 20, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven A. M., the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

Mr. Boyer presented two petitions of citizens of Clearfield county praying for the passage of a stay law. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary General.

Mr. Lawrence—A remonstrance, numerously signed by citizens of Canton township, Washington county, against the passage of any change in the road law now in force in said township. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary Local.

The following reports were made from committees:

Act relative to judgments and executions; with a negative recommendation.

Act relating to the transfer of the loans of cities and counties.

Mr. Lawrence—Supplementary act to authorize the appointment of stenographers in the several courts of the Commonwealth, prescribing their duties and fixing their compensation; with a negative recommendation.

Act relating to the service of notice of time and place of meeting of arbitrators.

Act to empower courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace to exclude farm lands from boroughs.

Act conferring jurisdiction upon courts of Common Pleas, in all cases of mortgages of property and franchises held by railroad, canal or navigation companies.

Act relative to the rights of corporations formed under the laws of other States.

Act to authorize the acquirement by the several counties of the Commonwealth for the use the county, of bridges erected over rivers, creeks and rivulets, and for the abolition of toll upon the same.

Act relating to the registration of births and marriages in cities.

Act in regard to the fraudulent concealment of vendors of the land; with negative recommendation.

Act relating to the appointment of auditors by courts.

Act authorizing the issuance of venires for the attendance of jurors in the several courts.

Act regulating passenger fare and freight rates on railroads not exceeding fifteen miles in length.

Supplementary act dividing the cities of the State into three classes, and for other purposes.

Act relating to idle and disorderly persons in cities of the second class.

Act authorizing the Councils of cities of the third class to fill vacancies in the offices of City Controller and City Treasurer.

Joint resolution providing for a special committee to investigate the causes of disputes and difficulties between employers and employed in the coal business.

Act relating to landlords and tenants of dwelling houses belonging to owners or operators of coal mines.

Act prescribing how employees of persons, partnerships, associations and corporations engaged in mining coal or the manufacture or production of iron or steel, shall be paid their wages or salaries.

The following bills were read in place:

Act amendatory of the law of libel.

Act to provide for the regulation of mutual insurance companies.

Act to abolish attorney fees on all judgments under one hundred dollars, entered by warrant of attorney.

Act relating to costs in criminal cases.

Act to regulate the division of wards in the cities of the Commonwealth.

Act relating to mechanics' liens, authorizing amendments to the same.

Supplementary to the act relating to the settlement of public accounts, approved April 9, 1869, authorizing the transfer of accounts from one corporation to another in certain cases.

Supplementary to the act to repeal the act to permit voters of the State to vote every three years on the question of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors and to restrain and regulate the sale of the same; declaring the intent and true meaning thereof with respect to fees paid for licenses under the provision of said act.

The following bills were read a third time and agreed to:

Act to authorize the Governor to appoint additional notaries public.

Act to protect the children of this Commonwealth in their right to acquire useful trades.

The following bills were read a second time and agreed to:

Act authorizing the State Treasurer to pay the necessary expenses of calling out the National Guard of Pennsylvania to assist the civil authorities in the suppression of riots in Luzerne and Schuylkill counties.

Act to provide for transferring awards of arbitrators.

Act to validate sales and conveyances under the decrees of the courts of the Commonwealth by persons irregularly or improperly appointed or defectively qualified.

Act to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases.

Supplementary to the act to relieve laborers, workingmen and journeymen from certain prosecutions and indictments for conspiracy under the criminal laws.

Act relating to the stay of execution in cases where such bail is like to prove insolvent.

The following bills passed first reading:

Supplementary to the act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations.

Authorizing the formation of wharf companies and corporations for the encouragement and protection of trade and commerce.

Act to provide for the erection of poor houses and for the support of the poor of the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 A. M.

The report of the Auditor General was read.

The following bills passed second reading.

Act to enable assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sale of real estate encumbered by liens; amended so as to allow the publication of the notices of such sales in two papers in each county—one German.

Act conferring jurisdiction on courts of Common Pleas in cases of mandamus against State officers.

The supplement to the act dividing the cities of this State into three classes, was opposed by Messrs. Hayes, Reighard and Grundon and lay over. Messrs. Mantle, Long and Morgan, of Lawrence, rose to recommitted, on motion of Mr. Wolfe, to the Judiciary General Committee, with instructions to report such amendments as they see proper.

The act to fix the compensation of the Supreme Judges of the Commonwealth, came up on second reading.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, moved to amend by making the salary of the Chief Justice $7,500, instead of $8,500; and of the associate justices $7,000.

Mr. Hays favored the amendment, and thought it was no time to raise salaries.

Mr. Hulin spoke at length in favor of increasing the salaries, and held that no constituency would reflect upon a Representative for voting additional salary to the Supreme Judges.

Mr. Zern favored the amendment.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, spoke in favor of his amendment, and called on the House to pass it now or vote down the bill.

Mr. Plummer, of Crawford, spoke eloquently in opposition to any increase of salary for judges. He thought the people were degenerated from the early day of the Republic; that it was no time now for any such action, but rather a time for the reduction of taxation.

Mr. Sprng made a clear and able argument against the increase of salary.

The yeas and nays were demanded on Mr. Morgan's amendment, and it was carried—yeas 128, nays 42.

Adjourned.

The Democratic State Central Committee met here this afternoon, and agreed to hold their State Convention at Lancaster, March 22, to select delegates to the National Convention, and electors at large.

Hon. Morton McMichael and ex-Governor Curtin, together with the Centennial State Committee addressed the members of the Ways and Means, Appropriations and Centennial Committees in the Senate Chamber this evening, and asked for an appropriation of $50,000 to erect a State Centennial building.

The Governor has issued the commission of Captain Tyson as Sealer of Weights and Measures for Allegheny county.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 21, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 A. M., the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

The following bills were introduced:

Act for the relief of surviving volunteer soldiers of the Mexican war, providing for a bounty of two hundred dollars to every Pennsylvanian in the Mexican war.

Act providing for recording the sale of mortgages and leases.

Joint resolution providing that the Chief Clerks of the House and Senate be directed to purchase a copy of the general railroad laws for each member of the Legislature at a cost not to exceed three dollars and a half per copy.

Act providing that the costs of contested election cases, when the courts decide compulsant not without probable cause, shall be paid by the districts in which the contests arise, collectable like other debts against the districts.

The following bills passed third reading and were presented to the House for concurrence:

Act authorizing the payment of the expenses of calling out the National Guard to suppress the riots in Luzerne and Schuylkill counties.

Act providing for the transfer of awards of arbitrators by filing a certified copy of the records in the case in another county.

Act providing that in cases where the bail for stay of execution is likely to prove insolvent the court may call the bail into court and demand further security.

Mr. Wood offered the following resolution, which was laid over for second reading on Wednesday:

WHEREAS, The groundhog has been making and superintending the weather ever since the discovery of America; and

WHEREAS, There never was recorded any appropriation of money for his arduous and responsible service; therefore

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to him, and that he be requested to forecast the weather until Old Probabilities can afford to dispense with his services.

Resolved, That Groundhog day be declared a legal holiday.

Mr. Wood also read a bill in place for the secession of all wards from the Twenty-fourth to the Thirty-fifth, inclusive, from the city of Pittsburgh.

Bills on first reading—Act to regulate the amount of toll and other charges to be laid and collected by boom companies in the State.

Act relating to judicial sales and the preservation of liens of mortgages.

Act to provide for the refunding and redemption of existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts and other municipalities or incorporated districts.

Act conferring additional powers upon the several boroughs.

Supplementary act fixing and regulating the terms of all members of Councils and city, ward, borough and township officers, excepting school directors elected by the people, and fixing the time for the inauguration of mayors of cities.

Act authorizing bridge companies to exercise corporate franchises within less than three thousand feet of other bridges.

Act to provide for the erection of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on public roads.

Act for the prevention of cruel and unnecessary experiments upon dumb animals.

Joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution.

Act relating to appeals in cases of summary conviction.

Act relating to bail in criminal cases taken by mayors, deputy mayors, aldermen and justices of the peace, requiring them to record on the information the residence of persons taken as bail, and the location and extent of their property.

Supplementary to the act to transfer of loans of cities and counties.

Act relating to the service of notice of time and place of meetings of arbitrators.

Act relating to Quarter Sessions to exclude farm lands from boroughs.

Act conferring equity jurisdiction upon courts of Common Pleas in all cases of mortgages of property and franchises by railroad, canal or navigation companies.

Adjourned till Tuesday, at 11 A. M.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M.

On motion of Mr. Talley, the rules were suspended and the consideration of the Finance bill was taken up. The bill was read, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the sinking fund shall consist of the proceeds of the sale of public works, or any part thereof; the income from or proceeds of the sale of any stocks owned by the Commonwealth, and two-thirds of all taxes on the capital stock of all corporations. The general revenue fund shall consist of one-third of all taxes on the capital stock of corporations and all other revenues of the Commonwealth; *provided*, that for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1876, two-thirds of the amount derived from the tax on the capital stock of corporations shall be paid into the general revenue fund, and the remaining one-third shall go to the sinking fund.

On motion of Mr. Gunster, the following additional proviso was added to the first section: Provided, That no bill shall at present be so construed as to authorize the use or application of any moneys which, under existing laws, have been already paid into the sinking fund, otherwise than in the extinguishment of the public debt, unless in case of war, invasion or insurrection; also that the State Treasurer on the first Monday of each month, shall render to the Auditor General a detailed statement of the total amount in the State Treasury and the number of banks, corporations, firms and individuals with whom deposited."

On motion of Mr. Stotzer, the following was added as a third section to the bill: "Section III.—Whereupon it shall appear by the monthly statement of the State Treasurer, as required by the twelfth section of the act of May 8, 1874, relating to the State Treasurer and Board Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, that there is a balance remaining in the sinking fund which, for the time being, may not be required for the payment of any part of the public debt or the interest thereon, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund are hereby authorized and directed to invest such unexpended balance in bonds of the United States, or of this Commonwealth, at a rate not exceeding the then market value of such bonds, the interest and other proceeds thereof to be applied in like manner as other moneys in the sinking fund are by law required to be applied."

The bill, as amended, then passed second reading.

A number of petitions and memorials were presented and appropriately referred.

On motion of Mr. Jackson, the consideration of the following resolution was taken up:

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our members requested, to vote for and use all proper means to secure the repeal of so much of the act of Congress, approved January 14, 1875, entitled "An act to provide for the resumption of specie payments," as provides for resumption in coin, on and after January 1, 1879, of the outstanding legal tender notes of the United States.

Mr. Jackson moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Federal Relations. Not agreed to—yeas 77, nays 85.

Mr. Hassen offered the following substitute to the above:

Resolved, That, if the Senate concur, our Senators are hereby instructed and our Congressmen requested, to support such measures as will place the business of the country on a reliable basis and bring about the resumption of specie payments at the earliest practical time consistent with the best interests of the people, keeping in view at the same time the rights and welfare of the debtor, as well as of the creditor class of this country.

Mr. Wolfe offered an amendment to strike out the above, which was disagreed to.

Mr. Jackson supported his resolution in an able speech, replete with logic, eloquence and thought. The merchants, manufacturers and industrial classes of Pennsylvania were deeply interested in the repeal of the Resumption act.

Mr. Wolfe spoke in opposition, when, on motion of Mr. Huhn, the whole matter was laid on the table.

Mr. Mitchell called up his resolution providing for the final adjournment of the Legislature on the 30th of March, and that no bill be introduced after the 15th of March. The resolution was defeated—yeas 47, nays 120.

A bill was read in place for the secession of all the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth wards of Pittsburgh.

There were no reports from committees and no bills were read in place.

Adjourned till Monday evening at 7:30.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 24, 1876.

The House met at 7:30 P. M.

Mr. Thornton presented the petition of Councilmen from the old wards of the city of Pittsburgh praying for the withdrawal of the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth wards from the city. Also petition of citizens of the Second districts of Wilkins and Patton townships, asking the repeal of prohibitory liquor laws.

Bills were read in place as follows:

Mr. Graham, of Allegheny—Act to regulate trials by jury in civil cases. This law is in operation in the State of Tennessee, and has come up before the Supreme Court. Also, authorizing municipal corporations to vacate streets and alleys within their corporate limits.

Mr. Hays—Act prescribing the manner in which cities of the Commonwealth may pass ordinances authorizing the grading or paving of any avenue, street or alley, or the construction of any sewer or bridge.

Also, supplementary act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations. The above authorizes the formation of corporations to build and operate inclined planes with special reference to the one proposed in South Pittsburgh.

Mr. Christy—Petition of citizens of Turtle Creek and East Deer townships praying for the passage of a bituminous coal mines law in this State. Also, act to divide and make the wards of boroughs separate independent school directors.

Mr. Spang—Bill to promote the health of coal miners in bituminous coal mines of the State.

Mr. Hannan—Bill to authorize Councils to fix the salary of the burgess.

Mr. Jackson—Bill presenting the claim of John Kelly for work done on the Erie Canal. Also, act in regard to roads in Ropewell township, Washington county.

The Speaker announced additional names added to committees. The following were from Allegheny county:

Mr. Rodgers, on the Centennial; Messrs. Shidle, Sproul, Largent and Swan, on Geological Survey; Mr. Andrew Large, on Labor and Industry.

The petition of citizens of Kittanning and were presented to the House for concurrence:

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A bill was read in place for the secession of all the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth wards of Pittsburgh.

There were no reports from committees and no bills were read in place.

Adjourned till Monday evening at 7:30.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 24, 1876.

The House met at 7:30 P. M.

Mr. Thornton presented the petition of Councilmen from the old wards of the city of Pittsburgh praying for the withdrawal of the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth wards from the city. Also petition of citizens of the Second districts of Wilkins and Patton townships, asking the repeal of prohibitory liquor laws.

Bills were read in place as follows:

Mr. Graham, of Allegheny—Act to regulate trials by jury in civil cases. This law is in operation in the State of Tennessee, and has come up before the Supreme Court. Also, authorizing municipal corporations to vacate streets and alleys within their corporate limits.

Mr. Hays—Act prescribing the manner in which cities of the Commonwealth may pass ordinances authorizing the grading or paving of any avenue, street or alley, or the construction of any sewer or bridge.

Also, supplementary act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations. The above authorizes the formation of corporations to build and operate inclined planes with special reference to the one proposed in South Pittsburgh.

Mr. Christy—Petition of citizens of Turtle Creek and East Deer townships praying for the passage of a bituminous coal mines law in this State. Also, act to divide and make the wards of boroughs separate independent school directors.

Mr. Spang—Bill to promote the health of coal miners in bituminous coal mines of the State.

Mr. Hannan—Bill to authorize Councils to fix the salary of the burgess.

Mr. Jackson—Bill presenting the claim of John Kelly for work done on the Erie Canal. Also, act in regard to roads in Ropewell township, Washington county.

The Speaker announced additional names added to committees. The following were from Allegheny county:

Mr. Rodgers, on the Centennial; Messrs. Shidle, Sproul, Largent and Swan, on Geological Survey; Mr. Andrew Large, on Labor and Industry.

The petition of citizens of Kittanning and were presented to the House for concurrence:

Act authorizing the payment of the expenses of calling out the National Guard to suppress the riots in Luzerne and Schuylkill counties.

Act providing for the transfer of awards of arbitrators by filing a certified copy of the records in the case in another county.

Act providing that in cases where the bail for stay of execution is likely to prove insolvent the court may call the bail into court and demand further security.

Mr. Wood offered the following resolution, which was laid over for second reading on Wednesday:

WHEREAS, The groundhog has been making and superintending the weather ever since the discovery of America; and

WHEREAS, There never was recorded any appropriation of money for his arduous and responsible service; therefore

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to him, and that he be requested to forecast the weather until Old Probabilities can afford to dispense with his services.

Resolved, That Groundhog day be declared a legal holiday.

Mr. Wood also read a bill in place for the secession of all wards from the Twenty-fourth to the Thirty-fifth, inclusive, from the city of Pittsburgh.

Bills on first reading—Act to regulate the amount of toll and other charges to be laid and collected by boom companies in the State.

Act relating to judicial sales and the preservation of liens of mortgages.

Act to provide for the refunding and redemption of existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts and other municipalities or incorporated districts.

Act conferring additional powers upon the several boroughs.

Supplementary act fixing and regulating the terms of all members of Councils and city, ward, borough and township officers, excepting school directors elected by the people, and fixing the time for the inauguration of mayors of cities.

Act authorizing bridge companies to exercise corporate franchises within less than three thousand feet of other bridges.

Act to provide for the erection of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on public roads.

Act for the prevention of cruel and unnecessary experiments upon dumb animals.

Joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution.

Act relating to bail in criminal cases taken by mayors, deputy mayors, aldermen and justices of the peace, requiring them to record on the information the residence of persons taken as bail, and the location and extent of their property.

Supplementary to the act to transfer of loans of cities and counties.

Act relating to the service of notice of time and place of meetings of arbitrators.

Act relating to Quarter Sessions to exclude farm lands from boroughs.

Act conferring equity jurisdiction upon courts of Common Pleas in all cases of mortgages of property and franchises by railroad, canal or navigation companies.

Adjourned till Tuesday, at 11 A. M.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M.

On motion of Mr. Talley, the rules were suspended and the consideration of the Finance bill was taken up. The bill was read, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the sinking fund shall consist of the proceeds of the sale of public works, or any part thereof; the income from or proceeds of the sale of any stocks owned by the Commonwealth, and two-thirds of all taxes on the capital stock of all corporations. The general revenue fund shall consist of one-third of all taxes on the capital stock of corporations and all other revenues of the Commonwealth; *provided*, that for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1876, two-thirds of the amount derived from the tax on the capital stock of corporations shall be paid into the general revenue fund, and the remaining one-third shall go to the sinking fund.

On motion of Mr. Gunster, the following additional proviso was added to the first section: Provided, That no bill shall at present be so construed as to authorize the use or application of any moneys which, under existing laws, have been already paid into the sinking fund, otherwise than in the extinguishment of the public debt, unless in case of war, invasion or insurrection; also that the State Treasurer on the first Monday of each month, shall render to the Auditor General a detailed statement of the total amount in the State Treasury and the number of banks, corporations, firms and individuals with whom deposited."

On motion of Mr. Stotzer, the following was added as a third section to the bill: "Section III.—Whereupon it shall appear by the monthly statement of the State Treasurer, as required by the twelfth section of the act of May 8, 1874, relating to the State Treasurer and Board Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, that there is a balance remaining in the sinking fund which, for the time being, may not be required for the payment of any part of the public debt or the interest thereon, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund are hereby authorized and directed to invest such unexpended balance in bonds of the United States, or of this Commonwealth, at a rate not exceeding the then market value of such bonds, the interest and other proceeds thereof to be applied in like manner as other moneys in the sinking fund are by law required to be applied."

The bill, as amended, then passed second reading.

A number of petitions and memorials were presented and appropriately referred.

On motion of Mr. Jackson, the consideration of the following resolution was taken up:

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our members requested, to vote for and use all proper means to secure the repeal of so much of the act of Congress, approved January 14, 1875, entitled "An act to provide for the resumption of specie payments," as provides for resumption in coin, on and after January 1, 1879, of the outstanding legal tender notes of the United States.

Mr. Jackson moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Federal Relations. Not agreed to—yeas 77, nays 85.

Mr. Hassen offered the following substitute to the above:

Resolved, That, if the Senate concur, our Senators are hereby instructed and our Congressmen requested, to support such measures as will place the business of the country on a reliable basis and bring about the resumption of specie payments at the earliest practical time consistent with the best interests of the people, keeping in view at the same time the rights and welfare of the debtor, as well as of the creditor class of this country.

Mr. Wolfe offered an amendment to strike out the above, which was disagreed to.

Mr. Jackson supported his resolution in an able speech, replete with logic, eloquence and thought. The merchants, manufacturers and industrial classes of Pennsylvania were deeply interested in the repeal of the Resumption act.

Mr. Wolfe spoke in opposition, when, on motion of Mr. Huhn, the whole matter was laid on the table.

Mr. Mitchell called up his resolution providing for the final adjournment of the Legislature on the 30th of March, and that no bill be introduced after the 15th of March. The resolution was defeated—yeas 47, nays 120.

A bill was read in place for the secession of all the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth wards of Pittsburgh.

There were no reports from committees and no bills were read in place.

Adjourned till Monday evening at 7:30.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 24, 1876.

The House met at 7:30 P. M.

Mr. Thornton presented the petition of Councilmen from the old wards of the city of Pittsburgh praying for the withdrawal of the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth wards from the city. Also petition of citizens of the Second districts of Wilkins and Patton townships, asking the repeal of prohibitory liquor laws.

Bills were read in place as follows:

Mr. Graham, of Allegheny—Act to regulate trials by jury in civil cases. This law is in operation in the State of Tennessee, and has come up before the Supreme Court. Also, authorizing municipal corporations to vacate streets and alleys within their corporate limits.

Mr. Hays—Act prescribing the manner in which cities of the Commonwealth may pass ordinances authorizing the grading or paving of any avenue, street or alley, or the construction of any sewer or bridge.

Also, supplementary act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations. The above authorizes the formation of corporations to build and operate inclined planes with special reference to the one proposed in South Pittsburgh.

Mr. Christy—Petition of citizens of Turtle Creek and East Deer townships praying for the passage of a bituminous coal mines law in this State. Also, act to

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., January 25, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 A. M., the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

A number of petitions were read and appropriately referred, and a number of bills were reported favorably from committees.

The following bills were read in place:

Act providing for the submission to the voters of the Commonwealth of a proposition for the removal of the Capital of the State to the city of Philadelphia.

Act increasing the capital stock of fire and marine insurance companies.

Act to amend and revise the penal law.

Act for the erection of a new State penitentiary and the removal of the Eastern State Penitentiary from Philadelphia.

To further define the duties of the Auditor General.

Limiting the time for entering judgments on promissory notes, amicable actions or agreements to confess or revive judgment.

To expedite the settlement of decedents' estates.

The following bill was considered on third reading, but was laid over to be printed:

Supplementary act to provide for the maintenance of certain classes of insane in hospitals."

Bills on third reading were taken up and acted upon as follows:

Supplement to the act to provide for the admission of certain classes of insane into hospitals for the insane in the Commonwealth and their discharge therefrom. Passed finally.

Regulating procedure for violation of ordinances in cities of the first class.

Mr. Yerkes—To establish an additional State hospital for the insane.

Bills on third reading were taken up and acted upon as follows:

Supplement to the act to provide for the admission of certain classes of insane into hospitals for the insane in the Commonwealth and their discharge therefrom. Passed finally.

Supplement to relieve laborers, workingmen and journeymen from certain prosecutions and indictments for conspiracy under the criminal laws of the State, approved June 14, 1872.

Mr. Strang had no particular opposition to the bill, but thought the remedy was sought in a wrong direction. The act of the 14th of June, 1872, to which this is a supplement, was ostensibly an act to relieve workingmen from certain prosecutions, goes on to define certain acts which were never an offense against any law such as refusing to labor when the conduct of an employer is brutal or offensive, or when continuing to be a member, contrary to the rules of any society of which the laborer may be a member, clearly net of fences against any law, and concludes by a proviso making it an offense to use any means to prevent others from working. The true remedy lies in repealing the act of 1872 entirely, and leave the workingmen of the State to be governed by the same law as other people. An attempt to construe the act of 1872 only begets more confusion, more contradictory rulings by the courts. It is a snare and a delusion to the laboring men themselves. The true doctrine is that all men are equal before the law. The principles of common law are easily understood and applied. Any attempt at class legislation is injurious to all parties concerned.

Mr. Bechtel supported the passage of the supplement as printed.

Mr. Yerkes made an amendment, which was adopted that the use of force or threats of harm to persons or property, or other acts or demonstrations intended to intimidate persons, as mentioned in the act, any way hindering persons who desire to labor for their employers from so doing, or other persons from being employed as laborers. The bill as amended was laid over to be printed.

To provide for the refunding or redemption of the existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts or other municipality or incorporated districts, evidenced by bonds or certificates issued prior to the 20th day of April, 1874. Agreed to.

Supplementary act fixing and regulating the terms of members of councils and other city, ward, borough and township officers, excepting school directors elected by the people, etc.

Authorizing bridge companies to exercise their corporate franchises within less than three thousand feet of any other bridge. Passed.

To provide for the erection of watering troughs on public roads.

Joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth. Laid over for amendment.

Bills on first reading:

Relative to the paving of streets in cities and to provide for the manner of payment therefor, indefinitely postponed. [The above bill has greatly agitated the good people of Allegheny city, and at their request was thus disposed of.]

To create a State Board of Health for the protection of life and health, and to prevent the spread of diseases. Passed.

Defining the rights and obligations of corporations formed under the laws of other States.

To authorize and empower county commissioners to contract for the purchase, use and control of bridges erected over rivers, creeks and rivulets and for the abolition of tolls thereon.

Relating to the registration of births and marriages in the cities. Agreed to.

Relating to the appointment of auditors by the courts of the Commonwealth. Agreed to.

Authorizing and regulating the issuance of venires for attendance of jurors in the several courts. Agreed to.

Regulating passenger fares and freight rates on railroads not exceeding fifteen miles in length. Agreed to.

Authorizing councils of cities of this Commonwealth, of which there is, to fill vacancies in the offices of City Controller and City Treasurer. Agreed to.

Joint resolution providing for a special committee to investigate the causes of disputes and difficulties between employers and employees in the coal business of the Commonwealth, to report such legislation as they deem necessary to secure the peaceful adjustment and settlement of said disputes. Agreed to.

Act relating to landlords and tenants of dwelling houses belonging to owners or operators of coal mines. Agreed to.

Prescribing how employees of persons, partnerships, associations or corporations engaged in the mining, manufacture and production of iron or steel shall be paid for their labor and services. Agreed to.

Promoting the qualifications of engineers of stationary engines and securing the safety of persons employed in and about the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania. Agreed to.

The Governor nominated the following, who were confirmed by the Senate:

Notaries Public—Andrew Burke, Pittsburgh; W. J. Curran, Pittsburgh, James B. Cagle, Pittsburgh; S. A. Will, Pittsburgh; William Jackson, Pittsburgh; H. Richard Davis, Allegheny City; Andrew R. Wood, Jand, Titusville; Eli Hewitt, Uniontown.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 A. M. and proceeded to the consideration of bills on third reading.

Joint resolution providing for the purchase of Purdon's Digest. Mr. Hassler moved to go into Committee of the Whole for special amendment, viz., to limit the number of copies to be purchased to five. Mr. Wolfe moved to amend by going into Committee of the Whole for general amendment. Accepted and then disagreed to. The joint resolution was then agreed to—yeas 74 nays 83. Those writing to refer to Purdon's Digest will remember that members get none.

Fixing the compensation of arbitrators chosen under the compulsory arbitration laws. Not agreed to.

Act enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sales of real estate encumbered by liens. Passed finally.

Act confering jurisdiction on the courts of Common Pleas in cases of mandamus against State officers.

Supplementary act relating to the State Treasurer and the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, amending the 11th section thereof so as to include in the sinking fund derived from the tax on the capital stock of corporations of the Commonwealth the stock, the sinking fund and part thereof to the several funds. Passed finally.

The following bills passed first reading:

Act to provide for the equalization of taxes on property of the Commonwealth.

Act authorizing the payment of unexpended balances of bounty funds into the treasury of the school fund of the district in which such bounty funds were raised.

Act to amend and revise the penal laws.

Act in relation to appeals from judgments of justices of the peace and aldermen for wages of manual labor.

Act to enable the select council of cities of the third-class to designate work on public improvements for vagrants and persons imprisoned for violation of city ordinances.

Act authorizing the use of unclaimed bodies of convicts and others for the promotion of medical sciences.

Act to regulate the practice of dentistry and to protect the people against empiricism.

Act authorizing bridge companies to exercise their corporate franchises.

Act to provide for running and marking county lines.

Supplement to an act entitled "An act to authorize and require auditors to make public an annual statement of receipts and expenditures of road commissioners, supervisors or overseers of the poor and school directors of the several townships and boroughs within the Commonwealth and designate a day to audit, settle and adjust township and borough accounts."

Act providing a remedy by mandamus against supervisors of roads who refuse or neglect to open or repair public roads.

Act to provide a mode for the removal of county seats.

Act fixing the compensation of township officers.

Act to determine the residence of owners and occupants of land when the dividing line between a township and borough passes through the mansion house, and prescribing the duties of assessors in such cases.

The House then resumed consideration of the Judges' Salary bill.

Mr. Smith, of Chester, moved to amend by allowing Judges of the Supreme Court, in addition to their salaries, a mileage of twenty cents for every mile traveled in the performance of their duties. The amendment was not agreed to.

Mr. Wolfe moved to recommit the bill to the Committee on Judiciary General. Not agreed to.

The House then adjourned.

Our Spanish Relations.

The President Submits the Correspondence to the House

Instructions from Secretary Fish to Minister Cushing.

Tenor of the Circular Note to Foreign Governments.

The Time Come for the United States to Interfere in the Cuban Insurrection.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 21, 1876.

The President to-day enclosed the letter of Mr. Fish and copies of the correspondence to the House of Representatives, in response to the resolution of that body calling for copies of the correspondence in relation to the Cuban question. The documents are voluminous and comprise much that has hitherto been published.

It appears that on the 5th of November last, the Secretary of State addressed two lengthy letters to Minister Cushing, at Madrid, the first of which refers to the neglect of Spain to comply with the stipulations of the protocol of November, 1873, and particularly in relation to the trial of Burriel according to the terms of said protocol. It appears that no steps had been taken to that end by the Spanish Government, but that it was even then discussing certain abstract questions when it should be making an investication, without waiting for any communication from the United States. The Secretary says: "It has been and is our desire to adjust this and every other question (and in this desire we have been pressed almost to the limit of endurance) in the same spirit. You have again been instructed to represent to Spain the injury that her course in reference to General Burriel involves to both countries and its effects upon our relations, and therefore it is earnestly hoped these representations may be received and responded to in the same spirit. Whether this question shall precede or follow the treaty question or the confiscation cases, is left to your discretion."

On the 16th of November a telegram was sent by Mr. Cushing to Mr. Fish, stating that the Spanish Government had come in. It repeats the assurance of the trial of Burriel. On the same date (November 5, 1875) the Secretary of State also addressed another communication to Mr. Cushing, which is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., November 5, 1875.

Caleb Cushing, Esq., &c.:

SIR—Pursuant to the intimation conveyed in my No. 242, I deem it necessary to recur to the general question of our relations with Spain and to consider the progress which has been made in disposing of the unsatisfactory questions which have arisen in the past have seriously threatened the relations of the two countries. At the time of your departure for Madrid, apart from the general question of the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in Cuba and the failure to suppress the revolution, several prominent questions remained unadjusted, the settlement of which was indispensable before any satisfactory relations with Spain could be established or maintained. Upon all these you were instructed. The progress which has been made with them were questions arising from the embargoand confiscation of estates of American citizens in Cuba; those relating to the trial of Americans and others by Spain in violation of the treaty of obligations and claims arising out of the capture of the Virginius, including the trial and punishment of General Burriel for the Arsenal outrages. After the expiration of more than eighteen months, it seems advisable to examine what progress has been made and to consider briefly the relations with reference to the arbitrary seizure and withholding of the estates and property of citizens of the United States in Cuba, under proceedings in confiscation or embargo, co-called, a separate instruction was addressed to you, under date of February 6, prior to your departure for your post, in reference to the general facts surrounding these cases, to the arbitrary action of the authorities, by which the property of American citizens had been seized under color of revolutionary provisions. In the absence of judicial proceedings, without a hearing and under such circumstances as to call for a vigorous remonstrance and demand on the part of the Government. The general facts surrounding these cases are well known. It is not pretended, so far as I am aware, that any legal proceedings have been had, or that has been attempted on the part of the authorities of Spain, or that these proceedings in Cuba are defended or upheld. The confiscation decrees of 1869 were issued by the Government on the 12th of July, 1873, the illegality and indefensible character of which are now admitted and the embargoes were ordered to be removed and the property to be restored. This decree was at first received in Cuba with indifference, and was even published or adverted to, and the proceeding of the authorities were in no notable respect changed thereby. Senor Solor y Pla, Minister of Ultramar, the decree was in some instances recognized and some sig nificant steps taken in pursuance of it to comply therewith. In general, however, it was claimed either that incumbrances existed, making compliance therewith impossible, or that the property had been rendered by leases or incumbrances and coupled with unfair conditions or demands, or the delivery was avoided on the ground that particular property was not confiscated, not embargoed. In fact, the decree was treated in general with supreme indifference. You were informed that the President was willing to believe that through the willingness of the authorities in Spain to do justice to this Government and her citizens, expected that answer would be found to protect their agents in Cuba to obey the orders of the supreme Government, and on the publication of the question at the date of your departure. Numbers of American citizens had at this time been for a period of three years and were anxiously awaiting the performance of the promises which had been given by the Spanish Government. In spite of all the efforts which you have made, backed by the most urgent instructions, to this no effectual result has been accomplished. Immediately after your arrival in Madrid difficulties, in your No. 24, under date of June 2 you reported a conversation with Mr. Ulloa having reference to the instructions contained in No. 39, June 22, you advise the Department of a note addressed to the Minister of State calling attention to the cases of Messrs. Farres de Mora and Mrs. Farres de Mora and to the general question. Although these cases had already been passed on as early as January 18, 1873, the then Minister of State at Madrid had expressed surprise and regret at the continued claims on these particular cases. Mr. Ulloa informed you, under date of June 4, 1874 that the Ministry was in want of information as to these cases and that information had been requested through the Minister of Cuba. He added however, that the Spanish Government proposed to adopt, with all possible dispatch, a general system with respect to impending embargoes, and that that important question would be set at rest in conformity with the true interpretation of the treaty of 1795 and with the spirit of the present friendly relations between the two countries. At the time of your departure for Madrid, apart from the matter remains undisposed of and the authorities of Cuba, continuing on convention on occasions, in obedience to supposed necessity, to again resort to such military tribunals or to punish without trial. This simple narration of facts as to these two questions—promises made and repeated, the assurances given from time to time that something should be done, the admission of the justice of the demands of the United States, at least to the extent of expressing regret for these wrongsand promising redress, followed as they have been by absolutely no performance and no practical steps toward performance—need only a general review to show the case. In the cases of arrest and punishment, citizens of the United States in like manner have undergone delays, and the representative of Spain do not meet the issue and decide the question.

Turning to the question which arose from the capture of the Virginius and the executions which followed, no extended reference is required to the various circumstances of delivery of the vessel to this Government and the payment of the indemnity to Britain and the United States of considerable sums as compensation for the action of the authorities in ordering the executions. In each three passengers and crew under circumstances of peculiar brutality, have passed into history, so far as the payment of money can atone for the execution of these unprotected persons. It has been the constant duty and higher and more imperative duty which the Government of Spain assumed by the protocol of November, 1873, annually to call to mind the justice General Burriel and the other principal offenders remained unpunished, and neglected. Having made this neglect the subject of a separate instruction, under this date, I abstain from further reference to it, except to point out the fact that the delay in the present times and to the ideas which the events of the past age have impressed upon the people, is fraught with danger to the country. Great Britain widely has recognized the duty of colonial dependencies and is reaping the benefits in contentedness and the peaceful prosecution of the arts of peace and the steady progress and prosperity of industry in colonies which, under restraint, might have questioned and resisted the exercise of control by a distant government and might have exhibited, as does Cuba, a chronic condition of insurrection, turbulence and rebellion.

In addition to all this it cannot be questioned that the continued maintenance, in the face of universal sentiments to the contrary, of a compulsory system of slave labor, is a cause of disquiet and of excitement to a large class in the island, and that the existence of slavery which the Government of Spain has led us, by very distinct assurances, to expect would be removed from which the enlightened Christianity of the age condemns. The contest and insurrection in Cuba affect the United States directly and injuriously by the presence in this country of partisans of the revolt, who have fled into the country for the proximity of territory, as to a political asylum, and who by their plottings disturb the peace of our own peace. The United States has exerted itself to the utmost for seven years to repress unlawful acts on the part of its citizens in violation of Spain, relying on the promise of Spain to pacify the island. Seven years of strain on the powers of the Government to fulfill all that the most exacting demands of one Government can make from another under any doctrine or claim of international obligation, upon another, has not succeeded in the accomplishment of pacifications. The United States feels itself entitled to be relieved of this strain. There are the most serious injuries to the United States and often in conflict with public law, which the colonial officers have frankly confessed inability to control. Moreover, apart from the incidents and injuries to the United States, the earnest desire of the President to impress upon the authorities of Spain the continued friendly disposition of this Government, and that it has no interior or selfish objects in view, and no desire to become a party in the conflict; but is moved solely by the ingenerative necessities of a proper regard to its own protection and its own interests and the interests of humanity and as are firmly believe, in the ultimate interests of Spain itself. In informing the Spanish Government of these conclusions pursuant hereto, you are authorized to read this instruction to the Minister of State, and to state its substance and the purport thereof, as you may deem most advisable. You will of course keep him at liberty to retain a copy of this instruction.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
HAMILTON FISH.

On the 5th of November, the same date as the letter to Mr. Cushing, Mr. Fish addressed a note to Mr. Schenck, at London, saying: "Herewith you will receive a copy of a letter of instruction this day addressed to Mr. Cushing, containing the President's conclusion as to Cuba. You are left to receive the tenor of the letter, and say: 'This being the case, I am directed to inform you that I am just to communicate to Great Britain the conclusions arrived at in the note to Mr. Cushing and to suggest that in his opinion an expression by Great Britain to Spain of its approval of the view of this Government and its influence to induce a settlement, will tend to a more speedy accomplishment of the object sought by both the Government of Spain, by some wise and conciusive measure, to render all thought or necessity of intervention from any quarter unnecessary. The Government of Great Britain may perhaps think it not within the line of its proper, in view of its own interests, to co-operate with the United States in this effort to arrive at a correct view of the situation. Having, its own great interests and a regard for the preservation of the peace of the world will be believed, without doubt lead it to support the position which this Government has at length determined upon, and which it will again representative at Madrid to that end. Mr. Cushing has to-day been instructed to deliver his interview with the Minister of State until you have communicated to this Department the result of your interview with Lord Derby. You will take the earliest occasion practicable to comply with this instruction, and will promptly communicate to this Department, by telegraph and in cipher, the result thereof." Letters were addressed to the United States Ministers at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Vienna and Rome, and instructions given to them to solicit the hearty support of the Governments to which they were accredited.

November 19, Mr. Fish telegraphed to Mr. Schenck that advices had been received from Mr. Cushing to the effect that Spain declined the instructions to Lord Derby.

On the 20th of November Mr. Fish directed Mr. Schenck to read the instructions received to Lord Derby, and soon as an opportunity presented, and to explain that intervention is not contemplated as an immediate result, but as a contingent measure in case the contest be prosecuted and a satisfactory adjustment of affairs be not made. We desire to avoid any rupture and are anxious to maintain a proper relations with Spain on a permanent basis of friendship.

Mr. Schenck and the other Ministers were informed that the President's policy was adverse to any intervention of belligerency on the face of the globe. Under the circumstances, and in view of the fact that Spain has rejected all suggestions, all offers of reform or offers of mediation which it has been pressed upon it, and refused all measures looking to reconciliation except upon terms which amounted to an impossibility, the difficulty of the situation becomes increased. When, however, to these general causes of difficulty is added the fact that Spanish Government neglectful also of the obligations of treaties and solemn compacts and unmindful of the remonstrances which have continued and well-founded wrongs suffered by many citizens of the United States, it must explain how long this condition of things can or should be allowed to exist, and compels us to inquire whether the duty of longer forbearance where longer endurance of it ceases to be possible.

During all this time and under these aggravated circumstances, this Government has not failed to perform her obligations to Spain as had been required of her by the latter. In fact, it might be said that we have not only been conscientious in the discharge of our obligations surrounding the Spanish Government, but particularly careful to give no occasion for complaint on the part of the United States. To say the authorities of Spain have not at all times appreciated our intentions and our purposes in the discharge of our duties while insisting that a state of war does not exist in Cuba and that the Cuban belligerents should be accorded to the insurrectionists, have at the same time demanded for themselves all that information had been requested through the Minister of Cuba. Had the Spanish Government proposed to adopt, with all possible dispatch, a general system with respect to impending embargoes, and that that important question would be set at rest in conformity with the true interpretation of the treaty of 1795 and with the spirit of the present friendly relations between the two countries. At the time of your departure for Madrid, apart from the general question of the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in Cuba and the failure to suppress the revolution, several prominent questions remained unadjusted, the settlement of which was indispensable before any satisfactory relations with Spain could be established or maintained. Upon all these you were instructed. The progress which has been made with them were questions arising from the embargoand confiscation of estates of American citizens in Cuba; those relating to the trial of Americans and others by Spain in violation of the treaty of obligations and claims arising out of the capture of the Virginius, including the trial and punishment of General Burriel for the Arsenal outrages. After the expiration of more than eighteen months, it seems advisable to examine what progress has been made and to consider briefly the relations with reference to the arbitrary seizure and withholding of the estates and property of citizens of the United States in Cuba, under proceedings in confiscation or embargo, co-called, a separate instruction was addressed to you, under date of February 6, prior to your departure for your post, in reference to the general facts surrounding these cases, to the arbitrary action of the authorities, by which the property of American citizens had been seized under color of revolutionary provisions. In the absence of judicial proceedings, without a hearing and under such circumstances as to call for a vigorous remonstrance and demand on the part of the Government. The general facts surrounding these cases are well known. It is not pretended, so far as I am aware, that any legal proceedings have been had, or that has been attempted on the part of the authorities of Spain, or that these proceedings in Cuba are defended or upheld. The confiscation decrees of 1869 were issued by the Government on the 12th of July, 1873, the illegality and indefensible character of which are now admitted and the embargoes were ordered to be removed and the property to be restored. This decree was at first received in Cuba with indifference, and was even published or adverted to, and the proceeding of the authorities were in no notable respect changed thereby. Senor Solor y Pla, Minister of Ultramar, the decree was in some instances recognized and some significant steps taken in pursuance of it to comply therewith. In general, however, it was claimed either that incumbrances existed, making compliance therewith impossible, or that the property had been rendered by leases or incumbrances and coupled with unfair conditions or demands, or the delivery was avoided on the ground that particular property was not confiscated, not embargoed. In fact, the decree was treated in general with supreme indifference. You were informed that the President was willing to believe that through the willingness of the authorities in Spain to do justice to this Government and her citizens, expected that answer would be found to protect their agents in Cuba to obey the orders of the supreme Government, and on the publication of the question at the date of your departure. Numbers of American citizens had at this time been for a period of three years and were anxiously awaiting the performance of the promises which had been given by the Spanish Government. In spite of all the efforts which you have made, backed by the most urgent instructions, to this no effectual result has been accomplished. Immediately after your arrival in Madrid difficulties, in your No. 24, under date of June 2 you reported a conversation with Mr. Ulloa having reference to the instructions contained in No. 39, June 22, you advise the Department of a note addressed to the Minister of State calling attention to the cases of Messrs. Farres de Mora and Mrs. Farres de Mora and to the general question. Although these cases had already been passed on as early as January 18, 1873, the then Minister of State at Madrid had expressed surprise and regret at the continued claims on these particular cases. Mr. Ulloa informed you, under date of June 4, 1874 that the Ministry was in want of information as to these cases and that information had been requested through the Minister of Cuba. He added however, that the Spanish Government proposed to adopt, with all possible dispatch, a general system with respect to impending embargoes, and that that important question would be set at rest in conformity with the true interpretation of the treaty of 1795 and with the spirit of the present friendly relations between the two countries. At the time of your departure for Madrid, apart from the general question of the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in Cuba and the failure to suppress the revolution, several prominent questions remained unadjusted, the settlement of which was indispensable before any satisfactory relations with Spain could be established or maintained. Upon all these you were instructed. The progress which has been made with them were questions arising from the embargoand confiscation of estates of American citizens in Cuba; those relating to the trial of Americans and others by Spain in violation of the treaty of obligations and claims arising out of the capture of the Virginius, including the trial and punishment of General Burriel for the Arsenal outrages. 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fice authority, and to have most singular facility for communicating knowledge. That gentleman, by his long continuance in service, and by his diligence in well doing, was entitled to $4,500 a year, which the Committee on Appropriations now proposed to cut down. That committee, which had the whole interests of the United States committed to its charge, could not possibly be expected to know direct things that it was acting upon. [Laughter.] He [Hurlbut] looked upon the law fixing the pay and emoluments of army officers as among the contracts of the nation. When a man was induced to leave active service in the army, in which he was sure of promotion, and to settle down in the greater but more quiet task of educating youth, the nation had pledged its faith to him, and if was bad faith, unsound economy and unsafe policy to attempt to violate that contract. He was glad that the proposition to do so came from men where it had come. God forbid that any man who had borne arms on either side should disgrace himself by upsetting the calculations of a fellow soldier concerning the honorable dream which the gentleman had a right to indulge in, relying on the promise of the Government. He spoke of this thing now because "coming events cast their shadows before." This little, ill-considered, ignorant attack on West Point was only the mere skirmish of the main movements to be directed against that army of institutions, of which West Point was the nursery, and of which the nation was proud. The people did not want to see the honor of the nation and the school of the soldier and dignity of the professor struck at, as they were in this bill.

Without action on the bill the committee rose and Mr. DOUGLAS, from the Committee on Patents, reported a bill to amend section 180 of the revised statutes in regard to prohibiting clerks or employees in any department of the Government from prosecuting claims or applications for patents. Passed.

Mr. HARTZELL, from the same committee reported a bill to amend section 4898 of the revised statutes in relation to the assignment of patents. Passed.

The House adjourned.

WHISKY FRAUDS.

TRIAL OF M'KEE AT ST. LOUIS—JURY OBTAINED AND CASE OPENED.

ST. LOUIS, January 21.—The United States Circuit Court room was crowded today by spectators to hear and see everything in connection with the McKee whisky trial. A jury was easily obtained, there being but few challenges. The jurors are all from interior counties of the State, and consist of merchants, mechanics and farmers.

District Attorney Dyer opened the case with a statement of what the prosecution expected to prove, the material points being that he would show that Mr. McKee was not only a member of the ring, but the cause which led to his being taken into it, was that he was a man of influence at Washington and in the palmy days of the ring controlled one of the principal organs here. It would be shown that each week while the ring flourished the money obtained from illegal practices, by bribed the gaugers and storekeepers had been paid, divided into five parts. One part went to McDonald, one to Joyce, one to McGrue and two to McKee, to provide with the Collector. It would be shown that during the time from September, 1871, to November, 1873, each of these beneficiaries realized about $30,000 from the dealings. As a new feature of the details of carrying on frauds, he would show that on one occasion four books, containing 1,500 rectifiers' stamps worth twenty-five cents each, were sold from the Collector's office to the rectifying firm of Bevis & Fraser for the large price of four dollars each, or $6,000 for all. The stamps were not regularly accounted for to the Government, but were charged against the account of one of the clerks of the Collector's office, as though he had used them. Why this was done, and why Bevis & Fraser were willing to pay $6,400 for $400 worth of stamps, would be seen when he explained that the object of the use of the stamps to a package of rectified spirits is a certificate that such spirits had been properly tax-paid before rectifying. One thousand extra proof of $6,400 for $400 worth of such stamps, enabled the Collector's office to realize $6,000 profit. The possession of 1,000 stamp enabled Bevis & Fraser to put on the market, properly certified, 1,600 packages of spirits, on which no taxes had been paid, saving anywhere from $30 to $60. The stubs, he would be shown, were thrown into the furnace at Bevis & Fraser's establishment and burned, and no inquiry by the Department resulted, because of the explanation on the Collector's books. We will show you, also, that the defendant now on trial was one of the parties interested in the suppression of evidence before the Grand Jury; that the conspiracy was not only a combination to defraud the Government, but also became a combination to keep evidence from the Grand Jury. We will also show that when Conduce Megrue was brought here on a *capias*, McKee had three interviews with Megrue and that with the most gentle man to save him from a disclosure that would ruin him, and that when these proved unsuccessful a proposition was made by members of the ring, McKee being one of them, to buy off Megrue, and that this was not accomplished because the money could not be raised.

Mr. G. McGrue was then put on the witness stand and gave much the same evidence given by him in the McDonald and Avery cases, viz.: the history of the organization of the whisky ring, of whom it was composed, the amount of money spent by distillers, who received the money, &c. The defense objected to several questions asked the witness, and insisted that the prosecution should establish the fact of a conspiracy and that the defendant was connected with it, before hearing testimony as to the accounts of co-conspirators. After considerable argument, the witness was withdrawn, with the understanding that he would be recalled later in the trial.

John M. Fitzroy, who served as Deputy Collector under Charles W. Ford and Constantine Maguire, was then called and said he had charge of the distilleries and knew they made crooked whisky. Much of his testimony was a repetition of what was brought out before on trials. The only part bearing directly on the defendant, was as follows: He (witness) collected the money from distillers and carried it every week to the Supervisor's office, where it was divided into five parts—one for Joyce, one for McDonald, one for Ford, one for McKee and one for himself. After the death, in October, 1873, he met McKee at a Supervisor's office and saw him take his share ($480). McKee told witness it was a sacred thing and he must keep it secret. On cross-examination witness acknowledged that he was under indictment in connection with the whisky frauds.

TRIAL OF M'KEE—DAMAGING TESTIMONY AGAINST HIM.

ST. LOUIS, January 22.—The United States Court-room was crowded again today, the halls outside being full of people who could not get in.

The first witness was B. H. Bogpike, of the firm of Bernecker & Co., rectifiers. After stating that his firm had handled a good deal of crooked whisky, the witness recounted a long conversation he had with McKee at the *Globe-Democrat* office in October, 1874, of which the following is the substance:

I went to McKee at the solicitation of Henry Hardaway, ex-United States storekeeper, and told him that Joyce had promised Hardaway that he should be given an interest in the Busby distillery and that the product of that distillery should not be subject to levies for ring purposes. In consideration of this Henry Hardaway was to take care of (Mrs. Hardaway's brother), Megrue and other fellows who threatened mischief. Hardaway complained that Joyce was dealing double with him and that he and McDonald were always throwing obstacles in his way. Hardaway declared that he would have nothing further to do with Joyce, and threatened that if the present unsatisfactory arrangement was not carried out he and his friends, most of whom were ex-gaugers and storekeepers and knew all about the illicit distilling that had been carried on, would expose and break up the ring. I told McKee that this was the arrangement insisted on by Hardaway and his friends, that if it was not carried out they would burst the ring and I also told him they had already brought Supervisor Munn, of Illinois, over here, but had gone around with him at night and showed him what the Busby house was doing; that Chief Hardaway had or was to have a commission from the Secretary of the Treasury to go through this district and that with the knowledge he had he knew just where to strike the ring. McKee asked if this was the only way they could be kept quiet, and I replied that this was the only thing they would accept, and furthermore that Henry Hardaway had particularly requested me to tell McKee that he made the bullets and Chief fired them, and that if he (McKee) and the ring could stand it they (the Hardaways) could. McKee then said he would drop a note to Joyce and have him come over and see him. I said Joyce was not at his office. McKee then said, "Try and keep them quiet for a few days and I will see what can be done." I told him that wouldn't do, as Hardaway and Baron were outside waiting for me and expected a positive and immediate answer; they had declared that they would have no more shilly-shallying. McKee told me he would see Joyce in the morning, and for me to meet him that he was sure that the arrangements they desired were carried out. I then left and told the parties what McKee had said, and they seemed satisfied. Shortly afterward Henry Hardaway went into the Busby distillery as manager and remained there until about February, when they had a row among themselves and left. The Busby distillery was run according to the arrangement made, and the whisky went to Bobb's house and my house for rectification. Some was brought with the stamps and some without. If they had no stamps they sent it naked.

Witness also gave account of another conversation he had with McKee shortly after the indictment had been found against the latter, in which witness stated that McKee attempted to make him believe that the conversation they retained was about some goods of the witness which had been seized in Colorado, and that witness had asked him to intercede in his behalf with Collector Maguire and secure their release.

Witness continued: McKee asked me to refresh my memory regarding the matter and declared if he was not right. I told Mr. McKee that it was absurd that I should go to him to invoke his influences with McGuire for interference with the concerns of the local officers of Colorado; if I had had any goods under seizure there I would have known what to do, without going to him. I then remarked something to this effect: "Mr. McKee, you are an old man and ought to have more sense than to talk so." I never had any other conversation with McKee and never had any conversation at all of the character which he detailed.

During the cross-examination of the witness he was questioned very closely concerning the divorce he obtained from his first wife in 1867, the purpose of the defense being to show that he was a bigamist, but this they failed to do and the Court stopped further inquiry into his family affairs. Witness again described the conversation with McKee at the *Globe-Democrat* office, but the defense failed to break down his statements made in direct examination. In reply to a question, witness said he was under indictment and had pleaded guilty to some counts of the indictment against him. He was asked why it was he had pleaded guilty only to such counts as charged him with misdemeanor; why did he not plead guilty to those charging him with felony, as he had admitted doing in his testimony? He replied that he had left the whole matter to his attorney and had followed his advice. The defense evidently designed to establish the fact that by the act witness had been asked to turn State's evidence, or been offered some inducement to take such a course, or been promised immunity from the school of the prosecution, but he emphatically denied this.

S. D. Thorpe, ex-United States Storekeeper, was the next witness, and testified to having performed service at various distilleries and received money from distillers for the ring and for himself. Witness continued: I remember when Megrue came here last June; I saw him at the Lindell Hotel the day of his arrival. The same evening I saw McKee and he asked me if I could not arrange an interview with Megrue, and I told him I thought I could. I saw Megrue again that night and told him of McKee's desire to see him, and he said he would be glad to see McKee. I then went to the *Globe-Democrat* office and told McKee what Megrue had said. He told me he didn't wish to visit the hotel to see Megrue, but would like to meet him in some secluded spot. We talked the matter over, and agreed upon the corner of Seventh and Charles streets as the place of meeting. Megrue refused to leave the hotel. I then went to the place appointed and notified McKee of Megrue's decision, and we went to the Hotel Lindell, entering at the ladies' entrance. I introduced McKee to Megrue and left them together. I saw Megrue the day after the interview, and talked over what Megrue intended to do; was afraid Megrue would do McKee an injury. I told McKee I thought they ought not to indict him, as he could do them more good on others who were under indictment at the time. Two or three days after Megrue came here I saw McKee in his office and went down with him to the vault in the basement and into was in the cellar. McKee was very anxious to know whether he was to be indicted or not. He said if he escaped indictment he could do the Government service to those who were indicted. McKee asked me how he (Megrue) felt. I told him I didn't know how he felt, but thought if he was seen before the Grand Jury he would tell all he knew. We talked over several matters. Our conversation was in regard to the indictments and the indictments. McKee said he was going to Washington and would get the thing fixed. He asked me if I knew what Megrue was going to swear before the Grand Jury, and I told him I didn't.

C. G. McGuire was recalled and questioned regarding his interview with McKee in October last because in June, he said: When McKee came into my room he sat down and began talking in a general way about the whisky ring, the excitement here pertaining to the Grand Jury and about my indictment. He showed that he was considerably excited, and said he felt that I had it in my power to save him and wanted to know if I would do it. I replied that I would have all I could do to save myself; that I was thinking of a course to pursue, and didn't know whether I would or not. I did not tell anything. McKee said it was an unfortunate affair and he felt sorry for me and wanted me to help him. At the time of this interview he had been indicted by the Grand Jury. I said if I testified to the truth I would say there was a certain amount of money paid to me and disbursed it in a certain way, and that I paid John Leavenworth money to be given to him (McKee) and to Ford. I said to McKee that I would talk to the Grand Jury, that I divided the money into five parts, keeping one part for myself and giving one part to Joyce and McDonald. I didn't know what Ford did with his part. McKee said he made the bullets and Chief fired them, and that if he (McKee) and the ring could stand it they (the Hardaways) could. McKee then said he would drop a note to Joyce and have him come over and see him. I said Joyce was not at his office. McKee then said, "Try and keep them quiet for a few days and I will see what can be done." I told him that wouldn't do, as Hardaway and Baron were outside waiting for me and expected a positive and immediate answer; they had declared that they would have no more shilly-shallying. McKee told me he would see Joyce in the morning, and for me to meet him that he was sure that the arrangements they desired were carried out. I then left and told the parties what McKee had said, and they seemed satisfied. Shortly afterward Henry Hardaway went into the Busby distillery as manager and remained there until about February, when they had a row among themselves and left. The Busby distillery was run according to the arrangement made, and the whisky went to Bobb's house and my house for rectification. Some was brought with the stamps and some without. If they had no stamps they sent it naked.

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Witness continued: McKee asked me to refresh my memory regarding the matter and declared if he was not right. I told Mr. McKee that it was absurd that I should go to him to invoke his influences with McGuire for interference with the concerns of the local officers of Colorado; if I had had any goods under seizure there I would have known what to do, without going to him. I then remarked something to this effect: "Mr. McKee, you are an old man and ought to have more sense than to talk so." I never had any other conversation with McKee and never had any conversation at all of the character which he detailed.

During the cross-examination of the witness he was questioned very closely concerning the divorce he obtained from his first wife in 1867, the purpose of the defense being to show that he was a bigamist, but this they failed to do and the Court stopped further inquiry into his family affairs. Witness again described the conversation with McKee at the *Globe-Democrat* office, but the defense failed to break down his statements made in direct examination. In reply to a question, witness said he was under indictment and had pleaded guilty to some counts of the indictment against him. He was asked why it was he had pleaded guilty only to such counts as charged him with misdemeanor; why did he not plead guilty to those charging him with felony, as he had admitted doing in his testimony? He replied that he had left the whole matter to his attorney and had followed his advice. The defense evidently designed or endeavored to show that by the act witness had been asked to turn State's evidence, or been offered some inducement to take such a course, or been promised immunity from the school of the prosecution, but he emphatically denied this.

S. D. Thorpe, ex-United States Storekeeper, was the next witness, and testified to receiving information of Gen. Sewell's arrival here, in 1872, from Billy Robb, who was then storekeeper in their distillery. They had several tubs of crooked mash that morning, which was run into their beer still. Some unstamped whisky in their warehouse was disposed of and their house straightened up generally. Sewell reached their distillery two hours after they were informed of his arrival, and found all right. Bevis then recited some general operations of the ring, and repeated his testimony in the McDonald and Avery trials about the assessments made on and paid by the distillers for Revenue Agents Brashear and Hovey and storekeeper Baron. Witness continued: I had a conversation with McKee, either in or near the *Globe* office. I spoke about Joyce's removing the tubs to some other quarters, and said that I thought it unwise to remove them, as they knew what was going on and would certainly cause a deal of trouble; they were quite bitter against Joyce and Joyce, and were bound to raise a fuss. McKee said that he would talk to Joyce and McDonald about the matter, and do something to that kind. I don't think he made any reply to the remark that the Hardaways would make trouble. I also had a conversation with McKee while the Avery jury was in session. I asked him how he was getting along. He said, "pretty rough." I asked if he was indicted, and he said that he had not heard of it, but he supposed if he was not he could help us very much. We had not then entered our pleas of guilty. He said he had seen Maguire, but did not say what Maguire had said to him. He said nothing about Megrue's going before the Grand Jury.

This closed Bevis' direct examination, and the court adjourned.

TRIAL OF BROWNLEE AT INDIANAPOLIS.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 21.—The evidence in the case of Hiram Brownlee, on trial in the United States Court, was concluded this morning, with the testimony of W. H. Keller, of Evansville, who testified concerning the circumstances relative to giving Mr. Brownlee a pass over the Veach wedding, and which J. W. Dingham swore Brownlee had on when he paid him $500 at the St. George Hotel, prior to the latter's going to the wedding ceremonies. The witness alleged that Brownlee had not placed his glove on his hands till after entering the house of Mr. Babcock on the occasion of the wedding. Argument was begun this afternoon by the District Prosecutor, who was followed by Colonel Steele for the defense, pending whose speech the court adjourned. Colonel Steele will finish in the morning and be followed by General Harrison for the defense, General Brown making the closing argument.

MILWAUKEE CASES—CRIMINALS PLEADING GUILTY.

MILWAUKEE, January 25.—In the United States Circuit Court, to-day, Judge Dyer presided and the whisky cases were taken up. Louis Samuel, Elias and Max Rindokoff and Christian Salentine, rectifiers, of Milwaukee, pleaded guilty to indictments for conspiracy to defraud. A nolle prosequi was entered in the case of W. H. Rodgers, who had formerly been in the employ of the firm of W. P. Hovey, storekeeper, the counsel for the Government stating that he was honest but had been deceived. In the cases of the parties convicted on one indictment, nolles were entered on the others. To-morrow the case against Jacob Nunnemacher, A. G. Weisenfeld and H. P. Ellis, for conspiracy, comes up.

Arrests in Cairo for Violation of Bankruptcy Law.

CAIRO, ILL., January 22.—The Deputy Marshal arrived here with a warrant, issued against the dry goods firm of Heilbron & Weil, on behalf of Jennys, Flours & Abercrombie, of Chicago, attorneys for creditors. The Marshal arrested the debtors and seized the property.

L. D. Thoms, grocer, who is accused of attempting to defraud his creditors, was arrested to-day, charged with a violation of the Bankruptcy act.

CASUALTIES.

Nitro-Glycerine Gathers in a Couple.

NORTH ADAMS, January 29.—By explosion of nitro-glycerine at Mowray's factory, two workmen were blown to pieces.

Where Does it all Come From?

Pints and quarts of filthy Catarrhal discharges. Where does it all come from? The mucous membrane which lines the chambers of the nose, and its little glands, are diseased, so that they pour from the blood its liquid, and exposure to the air changes it into corruption. The life-liquid is needed to build up the system, but it is corrupted, and the system is weakened for the loss. To cure, gain flesh and strength by using Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, which also acts directly upon these glands, correcting them, and apply Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy with Dr. Pierce's Nasal Douche, the only method of reaching the upper cavities, where the discharge accumulates and ensue from. The instrument and both medicines sold by druggists and dealers in medicines. MWFA*

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 26, 1876.

The tendency of the local loan market is in the direction of quiet. Not that there are no borrowers, but because responsible parties do not feel disposed to use their credit to support undertakings, the results of which are doubtful, and any other class of borrowers find no favor with the banks. The older banks are all abundantly supplied with money, although the smaller institutions that are supported by the retail dealers are using their funds more closely.

We note sales on the Philadelphia board of Allegheny Valley Railroad, Bennet's branch 7's, at 95; 7-30's at 96; incomes 48½ bid; Pan Handle 7's sold at 32½; Pittsburgh 5's 86½ asked; gold 6's 104½ bid, and 7 per cent. street bonds 108½.

—A correspondent takes exception to some of the figures given in our issue of the 22d inst., as to the gold and silver production of the mines of the country at the dates mentioned. We would remind him that we were reporting a conversation, rather than offering information, and did not at the time think it necessary to verify the figures given. Since then we have done so. The actual amount of gold and silver produced in the United States in 1848 was $10,050,000; this increased to $65,000,000 in 1853, which was the greatest amount produced in any one year during that decade. In 1862 the production was $43,700,000, and has steadily increased to the present time. Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co. give the total production for last year at $80,899,037. It will thus be seen that the figures given were substantially correct.

—The reports of the Commissioner of Mining and the Director of the Mint, show that the total product of the mines of the country since 1869 amounts to $971,281,859. From the reports of the Bureau of Statistics, we find that the exports of gold and silver during those years was $1,133,181,281, and that the total imported during the same time was $267,580,921, leaving a net export of $865,600,363.

Deduct this amount from the total production, and we have $105,681,256 as the probable net amount of gold and silver in the country.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE, BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 7 NEW STREET. NEW YORK, January 25, 1876.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The stock market has been fairly active during the day, with some irregularity in prices, but the tone of the market has been generally firm throughout.

A new departure has been noticed in Erie, and it has advanced fully one per cent. on rumor that some arrangement had been made to get the road out of the hands of a receiver. Pacific Mail has fluctuated between 38 and 39½, with fair activity between these quotations.

The St. Paul and the Chicago and North western stocks are quiet and dull, pending the decision of the Supreme Court in the matter of the Potter law.

Alton and Terre Haute is evidently being prepared for the market, with a view to the election of directors.

We still regard this as a bull market, and think that it will pay to buy stocks at every decline for some time to come.

Money is easy at 5@6 per cent. on call.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

—A bill has been introduced at Washington by Senator Booth, providing that all lands which have been granted by Congress to aid in the construction of railroads shall be subject to taxation. The bill also proposes to oblige railroad companies to sell the lands which have been granted to them after the roads shall have been completed and operated.

The object of this bill is to correct a manifest injustice to settlers on Government lands contiguous to these granted to railroad companies. In several of the Western States and Territories the sections of valuable land which have been earned by railroad companies by the construction of their roads are held by the officers of the companies refuse or neglect to pay the cost of surveying them, and have not therefore received a patent. As long as the title to such lands remains with the United States they are not subject to taxation by State or local authorities. In some cases where railroad lands have actually been sold to settlers, the companies, instead of confirming the title and giving deeds to the purchasers, have exacted bonds to secure the payment of some future time. Then the settler has gone upon the land and improved it, but the title still remains in the road. Neither the local or State taxes have been levied upon it, and the actual owners of the land have escaped the payment of their just share of the expenses of the Government.

—It is reported that the Consolidated Virginia party have recently been large purchasers of the stock of the Comstock lode, and that they now control the company. The leading mines on the north end of the Comstock are already owned and managed by the Consolidated Virginia combination.

The deep shaft situated between the California and Consolidated Virginia mines, known as the Yellow Jacket shaft, is now 1,250 feet deep. It is divided into three compartments, and is equipped with the finest hoisting and pumping machinery in the world. The sinking 950 feet has been $436,182, gold.

The Crown Point Mining Company has levied an assessment of one dollar per share, delinquent February 17 next.

The election of a diamond-pointed drilling machinery at the Mexican tunnel was finished on the 13th, and the drill is in motion, and it is said began working successfully.

Work by hand labor was stopped on the drift in such a way for several months, but the drift was then four and one-half feet wide, encased between two solid walls.

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The Crown Point

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1876.

The foreign exports from Philadelphia, last week, amounted in value to $1,309,425.

SOME of the constitution makers of Kansas clearly foresaw that the State might easily be burdened with a debt which would be a millstone about its neck. And so they provided that the State debt should never exceed a certain sum. Now they propose to erect a statue to the man who wrote the provision. And really it is worth more than all the rest of the document.

THE grand financial maxim laid down by the immortal philosopher, MICAWBER, regarding the relations of income and outgo, is perhaps receiving more extensive and careful study throughout the country, at present, than any other question; "Annual income, £20; annual expenditure, £19 19s 6d—result, happiness. Annual income, £20; annual expenditure, £20, naught and six; result, misery." It is a good sign.

THE transactions under our international money order system are steadily growing in importance. The system, up to five months ago, included only British, German and Swiss money orders, but at the time mentioned the Canadian business was added, and it has since been increasing very rapidly. The total number of transactions last year was 919,172, embracing receipts and payments to the amount of $36,166,361 25.

THE first meeting of the General Conference of the Presbyterian Church is to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, on the fourth of next July. There are twenty thousand congregations within the limits of the Presbyterian fellowship, and fifty different forms of combined organization. This movement toward Christian unity is a marked feature of our time. Let us hope that the age of disintegration has culminated, and that reunion is to be the watchword of the future.

WE ARE beginning to turn the tables on Europe in the art of watch-making, and are introducing American watches into the European market on a considerable scale, and with confidence that the export movement now fairly inaugurated will grow into importance. One of our largest manufacturers, who makes 100,000 watches annually and employs some 700 hands, is in these comparatively dull times turning out in the aggregate more finished work than he did five or six years ago.

THE foreign commerce of New York last week, week, was: Merchandise imports, $4,875,576; produce exports, $5,050,091, and specie exports, $175,901. The total imports since the first of January have been $22,294,115, against $19,087,884 for the corresponding period in 1875, and $19,761,625 in 1874. The total exports of produce during the same period are $14,231,815, against $13,232,936 in 1875, and $15,374,622 in 1874, and the total exports of specie since January first are $1,539,023, against $7,026,858 in 1875, and $2,050,020 in 1874.

CAREFUL inquiry has developed the fact that, alike in England and in this country, there is a decrease in the deaths caused by drunkenness, both by individual restraint and an improvement of general morality, owing to the deeper impressions of the moral obligations of temperance. There seems to be a more general understanding of the perilous effect of stimulants upon the nervous system, even when inebriety stops short of excessive and habitual drunkenness. Hence it would appear that the best way to overcome this evil is in this direction, rather than in appeals to the State or National Government.

THE Washington correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* intimates that the Ways and Means Committee are preparing a great surprise for the country, and that within a week or two there will be sprung upon the House a tariff bill exceedingly radical in its changes. The free list is to be increased, the tax on tea and coffee restored, the customs revenue to be collected from articles on which a specific duty can be imposed, and "the complicated workings of the tariff system abolished." The mischievous hand of the Free Trade League is visible in this matter. Our Democratic Representatives from the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Congressional districts may presently be afforded an opportunity of proving the sincerity of their loud professions of fidelity to the protective principle.

THE aged father of DUNCAN, of the bankrupt banking house of DUNCAN, SHERMAN & Co., who promptly, it will be remembered, deeded to the assignee the property which had been conveyed to him by the firm before suspension, to secure their indebtedness to him, and who also promptly sent their letters of credit abroad, is lying seriously ill in London from the shock which the suspension caused. He was the original founder of the firm, and had the credit of the institution next to his heart; and although he was not in the least degree responsible for the failure, he feels the stain upon the name most keenly. If the business community generally had an equally honorable sensitiveness as respects the preservation of an unblemished name, the standard of financial and commercial rectitude would be much higher in this country than it is to-day.

IT SEEMS that, after all, BEN HILL, of Georgia, who struts about in Congress clad in the grave-clothes of the defunct Confederacy, has a martial record of uncommon brilliancy. A Union soldier residing in Aurora, Illinois, recently at slaughter heroic passages in doughty BEN'S career. It appears that he was, for a few days—

"A General of Home Guards in Georgia and Alabama, in which capacity at the head—when they started home—of about five hundred 'mose-backs,' he undertook to drive back, from Talladega, Alabama, April 1st, 1865, about eighty soldiers of the Second Michigan Cavalry, but Benjamin changed his mind, as he lately changed his speech, and, within five minutes after the first ride shot, he was seen digging the soul out of a noble Southern mule, with a big pair of spurs, and, still at the head of his command. The General" left on the field everything that was not fastened to him, such as artillery—two pieces—pack mules, overcoats, blankets, his hat, etc. His command did not again get together until the day of his election to Congress."

THE Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* thus describes the gloomy condition of the Democracy at Washington:

"A certain air of disappointment rests on the Democratic side. The high hopes which followed the election in October, and the applause which was expected from the country has not been heard. The promises of further victories do not lighten the hearts of the leaders. The foreboadings of defeat are nothing heavy upon their minds. The signs of demoralization are unmistakable. As has been telegraphed, it has thus far been impossible for Mr. Lamar, as Chairman of the caucus, to make up his Committee of Safety, or Vigilance Committee, as those ordered by the caucus have been called. Weeks have passed since the party met in secret and agreed to keep as quiet as lambs, and to do nothing, and say nothing, calculated to awaken suspicion or hostility at the North. Mr. Lamar, as Chairman of the caucus, whose chief duty it should be to see that the Democrats walked tenderly before the North. To this day he has been unable to decide upon them, and in the meantime, the wolves-like lambs have become ravening wolves. He has proposed more than a dozen names, and each has roused some little faction in the party to madness, and Mr. Lamar, who has worked earnestly to keep the menagerie quiet, is well-nigh distracted. This apparently simple matter has been the means of revealing their inside weakness to all Democrats. A party that cannot avoid cat-fights over the selection of a resident Campaign Committee will hardly conduct a successful contest for the possession of the Government."

IN HER latest volume, "Sermons to Clergymen," GAIL HAMILTON has done a good public service by satirizing the silly habit, which is so common, of mourning over the present degenerate days and contrasting them sadly with the golden age of the past, while we all know that the world, and our own country in particular, has steadily improved in morals as in culture. Looking round for some sinner in high place to admonish and for some suffering victim to vindicate, the author finds the former in the persons of Rev. Dr. WOOLSEY and JAMES RUSSEL LOWELL, and the latter in the Federal Government. Dr. WOOLSEY some time ago spoke in a public address of these times "when the affairs of the country are conducted with so little wisdom, and when political corruption seemed to be more and more rampant;" and LOWELL in his turn upon AGASSIZ, written abroad, with a singular want of patriotism for a poet so distinguished for his love of country, called it "The Land of Broken Promise." Assuming the former to represent the culture of Yale and the latter that of Harvard, the Government, and indeed mankind is pressed home.

About half the members of Congress are college graduates, and a larger proportion of the Cabinet and other high officials, while the proportion of college graduates to citizens generally is only one to about one hundred and sixty. She says:

"Now if the body-politic outside of government is a comparatively virtuous and pure body, and the body called government, though almost entirely free from the low element characterized as 'dangerous classes,' and composed largely of the very flower of civilization and Christianity, is so filthy and nauseous as to be a reservoir of political corruption, from whose defilement the pure outside world should be defended, it must be agreed that our science and our Christianity are both failures, and that the most urgent need of the day is a radical reform in our institutions of learning and religion."

STATES RIGHTS DEMOCRACY.

The speech of Mr. TUCKER, of Virginia, against the Centennial Appropriation bill, furnishes the only rallying ground for the Democracy. He plants himself upon the doctrine of States rights and the inability of the General Government to do *any* thing from lack of power. He believes that we are not a nation; that the General Government is a mere aggregation of independent, sovereign States; and that it has no right to exercise any power not specifically delegated to it by the States. The separate States, according to his theory, can do whatever they like; but the United States can do nothing beyond performing the very limited functions of a nominal central government.

This is Democracy as it existed in 1798, and as it exists to-day, wherever it has any real vitality. It was this kind of Democracy which incited JERRY BLACK, as Attorney General, to advise President BUCHANAN, when the rebellion of 1861 brok out, that he had no power, under the Constitution, to coerce a revolting State into obedience, and it was this advice which unnerved BUCHANAN and palsied his arms while the Southern States, one after the other, seceded from the Union. He permitted them to arm their people with arms stolen from the United States, and to light the fires of rebellion unresisted throughout the South. It was not treason or the love of treason that instigated BLACK and BUCHANAN to this course, but an infatuated confidence in the Democratic doctrine of States rights, and a confirmed determination to follow that doctrine out to its legitimate conclusions. They did not believe in secession, but they believed in the *right* of secession, and were sure in the conviction that there was no constitutional power to prevent it.

Mr. TUCKER invokes, anew, the Democratic spirit of devotion to this ancient Democratic doctrine and central Democratic idea. He does not care particularly about the appropriation to the Centennial; but he does care about standing by the States right creed, and is anxious to rally his political associates around the only principle they can unite upon. The Centennial appropriation is a mere bagatelle; but the assertion and maintenance of the States rights doctrine is the necessity of the Democratic hour. JEFFERSON spent many more millions than it is now proposed to give to the Centennial, in making the Louisiana purchase, for which there was still less warrant than there is for the Centennial appropriation; but that was to purchase slave territory, and was therefore justifiable, whilst the appropriation to the Centennial is only to commemorate the triumph of freedom. Besides that JEFFERSON always stood by the doctrine of State rights, even though he felt forced, now and then, to set it at naught; and Mr. TUCKER would doubtless be willing to see the Centennial appropriation made, in spite of his conviction of the lack of power to make it, if the Democracy of the country would but rally around the States rights standard and so leave the way clear, when the opportunity comes, to get up a new effort at secession and lay the foundations of a Southern empire.

The natural place of the Democracy is with Mr. TUCKER. Their history, their doctrines and their inclinations lead them there, and they will be grossly inconsistent if they do not follow his lead. They have no principles whatever in those stated by Mr. TUCKER, and no common rallying point other than that which his speech furnishes. State rights and an emasculated central government, without power to maintain its own existence, constitute the Democratic platform. The word-mongers may elaborate the Democratic creed into a multitude of declarations upon public measures of interest; but they all run back to the central doctrine that our Government is not a nation but a mere confederacy, weak and impotent, all the real power residing in the independent and sovereign States, which have grudingly conferred a few stunted privileges upon the central government nicknamed by them the "National" Government.

There is this difference in this matter, between the Northern and Southern Democrats, that the latter are free to say exactly what they mean, as instance Mr. TUCKER, while the former shrink from a frank acknowledgment of their position, and skulk behind wordy attempts to conceal their real position. The Southern men are bold and brave, while the others are cowardly and evasive; yet both aim at the same thing. In 1861 the Southern Democrats boldly put their States rights doctrines in practice, and the Northern Democrats, paralyzed with fear and imbecility, allowed them to do so.

Why Mr. TUCKER finds it necessary to reassert this doctrine so loftily, now, we cannot say; but it is presumable he finds it as necessary, now, as it was aforetime, to crack his whip to render his Democratic Northern brethren subservient and obedient. The events of the war have rendered the average Northern Democrat very timid about sustaining a doctrine which, followed out in its logical result, brought on the rebellion; but a free use of the old Southern discipline will, in the coure of time, render them all docile and submissive.

STAY LAWS.

There is a very strong desire apparent among the members of the Legislature, at Harrisburg, for the passage of a law to stay proceedings on executions for debt for a limited period. No bill for that purpose has yet been prepared or offered; but, in conversation, the inclination to press such an act is very clearly manifested.

Our present laws allow a stay of execution for six, nine and twelve months, according to the amount of the debt, to those possessed of otherwise unincumbered real estate, or to those who can furnish satisfactory security; but this does not answer the purposes of those who look for a much more sweeping measure.

In 1861 a stay law was passed which was limited to a year after its passage, and we believe the policy of it was not continued after the period then fixed for its expiration. This law grew out of the misfortunes that flowed from the panic of 1857. The Legislature was slow to pass it, but the pressure in its favor finally forced it through. That was four years after the panic, and the present demand is less than three years removed from the panic of 1873; but the present suffering is probably keener and more extended than it was under the preceding panic.

A stay law, sweeping and all-comprehensive in its suspension of legal process for the collection of debts, even though limited to a short period in its operations, is not a desirable remedy, and it would be much better for our future interests if we could avoid a resort to it. The passage of it would be a confession of utter prostration, and would clog a return to prosperity. It would probably let some debtors out of their troubles by giving them time to gather up enough of their means to pay off their debts; but to the majority it would be a mere postponement, and bring no real relief.

Of course, to those who are terrified at their present troubles, and who fear to face a forced sale of their property at much less than its value, no argument is sufficient to prevent them from clamoring for a legal remedy that will postpone the evil day; and the cry that comes up from this class of people is well nigh irresistible. We shall not be surprised, therefore, if their call is responded to as similar calls have been heretofore, in similar cases.

Besides that, a stay law may serve a good purpose in preventing the demoralization that must follow from the constantly increasing sales of property upon execution. In periods of depression, such as this, there are very few ready or willing to buy real estate, and every forced sale adds to the depression. It is impossible to realize the value of the property levied on; and when a sale becomes a sacrifice it carries ruin in its train, not only to the parties immediately interested, but to all those who are in similar circumstances. It is not therefore astonishing that it should seem better to those who are in legal peril, to stay all proceeding than to force property to sale at prices ruinously low.

For these reasons we think it probable that such a law will pass. In many of the counties the levies upon executions assisted are so frightful in their extent that they almost lose the character of a protection to the creditors. The delay of a year may not better this much; but it will afford a temporary relief, and that, to many, is a conclusive consideration. We fear the remedy will prove as bad as the disease; but the fear of the disease is much greater than the fear of the remedy, and may therefore be expected to prevail.

THE THIRTY DAYS ACT.

The Catholic clergy in this State have made no movements, as yet, such as have been made in Ohio, New York and New Jersey in favor of a division of the school fund in behalf of sectarian schools, but it is generally understood that they have a movement on foot for the repeal of what is known as the "thirty days act," which renders null any bequest to religious institutions made within thirty days of the testator's death.

The object of this act was to cut of deathbed bequests, made under priestly or clerical influence at a time when testators are peculiarly susceptible to such influences. There had been, prior to its passage, many instances of whole estates, or large portions of them, gobbled up by the church through the suggestions of the priests in attendance upon the owners in their last moments, the families or the natural heirs suffering from the loss of the property thus diverted from them.

The effect of the act has been to cut this practice up by the roots; and although the instances, constantly occurring, of the failure of charitable or religious bequests, because made within the prohibited period, have been mainly those made in favor of Protestant institutions, the Catholic Church has felt severely the deprivation of its opportunity to take advantage of the generosity begotten *in extremis*.

Hence the effort to repeal the thirty days act. That act has not cut off many bequests actually made in favor of the Catholic Church; but it has cut off a fruitful means of obtaining them. There is all the difference in the world between the disposition of a testator in sound, bodily and mental health, and the same testator in *articulo mortis*; and the church has found, to its cost, that it gets fewer benefactions by wills made by those in active life than it would get through the agency of death-bed generosity.

The act in question was borrowed, in its general bearing, from English legislation upon the same subject. The long experience of that country in the testamentary disposition of estates taught its legislators, long ago, the necessity for guarding the real estate of the realm from being absorbed by the church through wills made in the very article of death; and the legislation which took its shape from that experience suggested the statute which it is now sought to repeal. Human nature is pretty much the same in all ages and in all climes; and Pennsylvania has but done what other States before her have felt compelled to do.

No open demand has yet been made for the repeal of this statute, nor will it be made until some prospect is afforded for giving it successful issue. The existence of a Democratic House of Representatives at Harrisburg is thought to afford that prospect; and certainly, if the repeal asked for cannot be obtained from that House, it can never be obtained at all. The Democracy has usually been obedient enough to answer such demands heretofore, and it was not a Democratic Legislature which passed the act referred to; but we cannot believe it so short-sighted as to respond favorably to such a call upon it now. It has been guilty of many follies, and is capable of many more, but this is a step backwards which even that reckless party will be afraid to take.

HAIR SPLITTING.

The speech of JOHN RANDOLPH TUCKER, of Virginia, upon the Centennial bill, was a reiteration of the old CALHOUN heresy of absolute State sovereignty, out of which grew the civil war. The United States do not, he declared, constitute a nation, but are only an aggregation of independent commonwealths. As a specimen of his style of reasoning, we quote a brief colloquy which took place between himself and Mr. HOAR:

Mr. HOAR—The power to levy war, to conclude peace, to establish commerce, is to make a nation in every line where that power is granted.

Mr. Tucker—If that is what the gentleman means by that power, I understand him; but there is no such thing in the Constitution as a power to levy war. There is a power to declare war and to raise and support armies.

Mr. HOAR—And to levy it after it is declared.

Mr. Tucker—That is not in the Constitution. There is a power to maintain a navy, and to make rules for the regulation of the land and naval service, covers the whole question of what the gentleman from Massachusetts means.

If this means any thing, it means that the United States Government has power to declare, but not to carry on, a war; that it can raise and maintain an army and navy, but cannot make use of them in actual warfare. It may create and maintain a navy, but has no power to shoot a gun, and it may regulate the land service, but may not fire upon the enemy. This is the utterly useless thing to which the Democrats would reduce the National Government.

DR. HOLLAND editorially admits in the current number of *Scribner's* that his views regarding the advisability and justice of retaining the Bible in the common schools, which he has so strenuously urged, have undergone a considerable change. He says:

We very strongly suspect that we, who have hitherto been the advocates of the Bible in the schools, are weak at this point, and that we shall be obliged to yield it. If we teach our form of religion in our public schools the Catholic will wish to teach his form of religion in his schools, and to do it with the public money the same as we do. Can we blame him, and can we resist his claim so long as we maintain our own? If we are going into an action it is well to clear our decks.

It cannot be denied that there is force in this presentation of the case. The chief argument advanced in favor of Bible reading in the public schools is that to omit it is to virtually repudiate the book. But it would seem that the same principle is involved in the case of Catholic scholars who, at the same time, are deprived of the enjoyment of their own peculiar forms of worship; while, to say that our way is right, and their way wrong, is simply the answer of every zealot and bigot since the birth of Christianity. Undoubtedly the withdrawal of the Bible from the public schools would be followed by a demand from the Catholics for a division of the school fund, upon the ground that the schools were "Godless," and that they couldn't conscientiously patronize them. Neither, we think, is there any doubt that all citizens who are outside the Roman Church, would, in that event, decide with one voice that our national interests demand a system of free schools in which the children of the rich and poor may find equal opportunities for becoming versed in those studies and branches of knowledge which are alike prized by people of all beliefs. This seems to be the only ultimate way of uniting the people on the great level of general needs, tastes and facts, over which it is not possible for any quarrel to arise.

PERSONAL.

The first fruits of leap year shine forth in the case of Miss Belle Harper, of Fairhaven, West Virginia, who shot a man because he refused her offer of marriage.

The almost incredible statement is made that no less than seventeen hundred men and women in the United States, at the present time, professionally practice what is termed the arts of astrology as a means of livelihood, and it is further estimated that their dupes may be numbered by millions.

It seems to be a pretty well established fact that the ministry is one of the most physically wholesome of occupations. Of the one hundred and seventy-nine Congregational clergymen who died last year, eight were over eighty years old, and only six under forty. The average age was over sixty-four years.

Mrs. Grant is greatly beloved by the poor of Washington, for it is a fact not generally known that she and the President are very benevolent and charitable, and have a regular list of pensioners on their hands. She is a very kind mother, and, although surrounded by numerous cares, yet she possesses a truly womanly heart, and finds time to do a great deal of good.

Darwin finds strong but delusive confirmation of his theories in the recent death of the celebrated ape Mafuka, in the Zoological Gardens at Dresden, whose last moments are thus described: "As Director Schopf (the Director of the gardens) leaned over his favorite, the ape drew him toward her, placed her arm around the neck of her friend, and looked at him for some time with clear and tranquil eyes; she then kissed him three times, with short intervals between each salute, motioned to be laid on her couch, gave her hand to Schopf—as though bidding farewell to a companion of many happy years—and slept never to wake again."

(For the Pittsburgh Commercial.)

HAUNTED.

BY A. J. RONSALL.

The vast cathedral now is hushed and lonely,
The last footfall has sounded through the door;
The echoes of the singers' voices only
Are whispered faintly, slowly, o'er and o'er.

Against the stately medieval windows
Is richly poured the full moon's radiant light,
Which streams, subdued and chastened by the stainings,
Upon the grand old organ's massive height.

The arching roof is hung with densest shadows,
The altar is enveloped all with gloom;
Far down the aisles the somber shades are gathered;
Fantastic figures stretch across the room.

The vast cathedral now is hushed and lonely,
The white-robed priests and worshippers are gone;
Dead the last echoes of the singers' voices;
In nave and transept all is still and lone.

But now rings out upon this ghostly silence
The deep voiced organ's loudest, strongest peal,
In fierce, impassioned busts of mildest sorrow,
Of boisterous anguish, most intensely real.

With more than human passion thrills this wailing,
Far more than human eloquence it pours,
As though some wretched soul from Aidenn banished,
Were crying the despair of Hades' hours.

Now swells the volume of sad music to its highest,
Now sinks it to a sighing, shivering moan;
Now sounds it fierce with deadly raging anger,
Now seems it like a dying giant's groan.

Still against the tall rich gothic windows,
Is softly poured the fair moon's silvery light,
Which streams, subdued and chastened by the stainings,
Upon the rare old organ's massive height.

No place is there for player to be hidden,
No place for living soul in mad or idle,
And yet is seen no form of dead or living;
Yet is revealed no hand to sweep the key.

STATE NEWS.

Danville has the mumps.

The Lancaster *Inquirer* is to be offered at public sale on the 29th inst.

The original deed of Philadelphia is in the possession of a Jerseyman.

Conneautville had but one alarm of fire in 1875, and no buildings burned.

Out of 186 schoolhouses in Green county, not one is put down as first-class.

Aunt Charity Steele, aged ninety-six, is the oldest woman in Luzerne county.

The Blairsville Presbytery will meet in Homer, Indiana county, on Thursday next.

A Huntingdon young woman ate ten dozen raw oysters at one sitting, recently.

Potter county built ten new school houses last year, and still they have nine unfit for use.

There is a bell in York which was sent to that place by Queen Caroline before the revolution.

Waynesburg has "a well-conducted gambling shop," according to the statement of the *Republican*.

A young man named Glockler was killed in Liberty a few days ago by a tree falling on him, at a chopping bee.

Jacob Neiman, an old resident of North Coventry, Chester county, was found dead in his bed on Sabbath morning last.

The keeper of the Montgomery county prison has been held in bail for an alleged attempt to commit an outrage on a lady.

Sixteen hundred and ninety nine boilers were inspected in Philadelphia in 1875—an increase of 135 over the preceding year.

Two aged women of Phœnixville died on Sunday last—Mrs. Dora Quidiand, aged eighty, and Mrs. Rebecca Armstrong, aged ninety.

There is a gentleman residing in Conemaugh borough whose age is about eighty-seven years, and he is the father of twenty-three children.

In an affray at Elizabethville, Dauphin county, on the night of the 19th inst., Peter Lower was fatally stabbed by John Delble.

Dr. Anna E. Broomall, daughter of Hon. John M. Broomall, of Media, is now engaged professionally at the Woman's Hospital, in Philadelphia.

Lancaster people will soon vote on the proposition to erect a new reservoir, to supply the city with water, at a cost of two hundred thousand dollars.

Phœbe Hughes, the robber shot near Shamokin, was refused burial in the Catholic cemeteries by the priests, and he was taken to the county almshouse graveyard.

An attempt was made at Easton to abduct a boy named Allen, aged eight years. The would-be abductors were two well dressed men, and belong to Easton, it is believed.

It is claimed that the quality of the tobacco grown in Lancaster county last year is the best raised anywhere else in the United States. Its value is estimated at $2,000,000.

A young man named Kaufhold, of Columbia, was found dead in the road in Washington borough, Lancaster county, on the 19th inst. He had been drinking, and fell from a wagon.

A detective tried to show Mr. George M. Reeder, proprietor of the Easton *Express*, how an arrest was made, and accidentally shot the journalist in the face, inflicting a painful but not dangerous wound.

A little Philadelphia girl, six years old, got hold of her father's revolver, and while her mother was trying to take it from her a few weeks ago, she escaped, the bullet lodging in the child's thigh.

The wife of Phillip Dewalt, a farmer of North Coventry township, Chester county, committed suicide on Tuesday, by taking arsenic. She alleged domestic trouble as the cause of her self-destruction.

Mary Williams, aged sixteen, was seriously, perhaps fatally, burned in Lancaster on the 19th inst. Her little dress threw a piece of burning paper on the floor and from this her clothing caught fire.

The Doylestown *Intelligencer* has just lost a subscriber for a rather novel reason. The individual said he had just bought a Bible and he guessed he'd have about as much new reading matter as he could stand for the present.

Mr. G. H. Johnston, the retiring Treasurer of Indiana county, has concluded to vacate the office to his successor, Mr. Ebey, and handed over the keys on Saturday last. He intended trying to hold on to the position another year, but has given up the idea.

Hon. S. E. Ancona has been elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Reading Fire Insurance Company, and the *Eagle* denies the statement that he has been appointed to a position in the United States House of Representatives, or was an applicant for one.

It is rumored that a rolling mill is to be established at Wilkesbarre, Pa., under the auspices of Mr. Charles Parrish, President of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company. Tried as an experiment, it will be only of medium capacity, will employ but fifty men or thereabouts, and will manufacture merchant iron at the start.

During 1875 the carriers delivered in Philadelphia 18,237,913 mail and 10,134,657 local letters, 9,237,836 newspapers, 2,106,807 mail postal cards—a total of 42,590,660 pieces. The domestic money orders issued numbered 40,333, being for $776,657 35; money orders paid, 176,674, calling for $2,217,623 84; foreign money orders issued, 3,794, amounting in value to $65,971 67; paid, 2,564, calling for $47,229 89.

A West Chester paper says: "There is a gentleman living on South Walnut street, in this borough, who is over seventy years of age, and is worth at least fifty thousand dollars. He married a widow with a small, never borrowed a cent of money, never paid any interest, had three wives, raised a large family, is one of the best penmen and mathematicians in the town, is hale and hearty, and bids fair to see the next Centennial."

On the night of the 30th of October last Joseph Heistine disappeared from Johnstown, and although diligent search was made by his friends, no trace of him could be found. It was thought by many that he had met with foul play, while others, less charitable, insinuated that he had run away. On the evening of the 20th instant Heistine's body was found in Rheam's run, at its confluence with the Conemaugh river, bearing no marks of violence; and it is now believed he fell into the stream and was drowned.

This story of a horse, told by the Monongahela City *Republican*, is worth preserving: About two years ago, James Sampson, Esq., President of the People's Bank, sold a four-year old horse to a gentleman living beyond Youngstown, Ohio, and by him it was again sold to another gentleman, having in the transfer traveled over two hundred miles by rail, and changed owners twice. On New Year's day a strange horse was recognized by the people about the Sampson farm, and duly were made to drive it away. The horse acted exceptionally, neighing and whinnying when any of the family came about, and it was finally found to be the horse sold into Ohio two years before. This animal had traveled two hundred and sixteen miles after an absence of two years, in search of his old home. Horse sense, we find, too, with that unerring quality of mind which people *call* instinct. Does any one doubt that the horse had, during his absence, remembered the home of his childhood—the old hills of Carrol, the girls who had petted him, and the boys who had fed him? And was it not the recollection of his old home coming over him when the leafy and evergreen were wreathed and the children's stockings hung up, that he resolved to come back to Pennsylvania? for the sequel to the story proves that he left Ohio on Christmas.

NO MORE long and costly processions of funeral carriages in Springfield, Mass. The correct thing in funerals is to dismiss the company at the close of the services at house or church, and convey only the family and a few near relations in carriages to the cemetery. It is hard on the livery stable men and undertakers, but the wealthy and fashionable ones say that the reform must be carried out, and it is.

POLITICAL.

State.

The *Patriot* regrets that there are not more ex-Confederates in Congress. During the war it regretted that there were not more Confederate soldiers in the field.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

The friends of ex-Governor Curtin are trying to get him on the Democratic ticket for Vice President, as a tail to the Hendricks kite. Had Governor Curtin been faithful to the organization that loaded him with honors, it would not be necessary for him to occupy the humiliating position today of a suppliant at the feet of his old enemies and malignant slanderers.—*Lebanon Courier.*

Governor Hartranft is by no means an improbable candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency, says the Lebanon *Courier*. And should he be nominated, he will be elected. He has many of the elements of strength. As a soldier of the Union he has a first-class record; and as a civilian he has won a very high place in the regard of that portion of the public which can appreciate strong common sense and unswerving integrity in public affairs. He would enlist, too, the enthusiastic support of the young men of the country, and that support is a great power. At this time, we regard Hartranft's chance for the Presidency as promising as that of any one who has been spoken of.

General.

Of eighty trampers in the Dayton, O., Workhouse, only one claims to be a Republican.

The division of parties in the House of Representatives is the Andersonville "dead line."

Ben Hill is one of those men who believe in burying the hatchet, but want to have the handle sticking above ground for convenience.

Mr. Pinchback says it is not probable that he would break the time-honored custom among officeholders in regard to dying or resigning.

If the Democratic Convention comes to Chicago, we'll lodge all the Confederate delegates on the former site of Camp Douglass.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A paper down in Guernsey county is out flat-footed for the third term. It must be exceeding anxious to elect a Democratic President.—*Akron Beacon.*

The *Independent* is firm in the belief that Jeff. Davis ought to be excepted from amnesty on account of Andersonville, and thinks that when captured he should have been tried and shot for violation of the laws.

The Confederates in Congress seem to fancy that all the boys in blue are dead. When they hear the political long roll next November they will discover their mistake. The boys have not forgotten the "dead line."

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* hastens to publish Mr. Hill's speech in full, and editorially indorses it is a patriotic and incisive speech. The Louisville *Courier-Journal* has heretofore claimed that it was thoroughly reconstructed.

Dr. J. W. Draper, in his "History of the Civil War," volume 3, page 515, says: "So atrocious is the crime perpetrated at Andersonville that it is not for man to deal with it. None but God can justly measure its enormity; none but God can adequately punish it."

Mr. Hill is entitled to our thanks for doing his duty to history, to himself and us, and for doing it firmly and with the honest heat fit to be felt by him who repels a disgraceful slander, and fixes where it belongs a responsibility nothing short of terrible.—*Norfolk Virginian.*

A Michigan soldier writes to the Grand Rapids *Eagle* that it was pretty hard to be an Andersonville prisoner, but that in his wildest dreams it never occurred to him that the men who ruled his prison would one day be defending their infamous conduct in the very halls of the nation he was suffering to save.

The Boston *Commonwealth* thinks the amnesty debate "has served a good purpose in calling the attention of the country to facts that should never be forgotten. Not that we desire to open old wounds, but to remember that there is danger in placing political power in the hands of men who justify the manner in which the war was made by the South, and charge the responsibility of the conflict upon the North."

Both Mr. Hill and Mr. Cox are catching it on all sides, for the revision of their speeches on the amnesty question, before they would allow them to appear in the *Congressional Record*. Even the New York *Tribune* gets indignant and says: "There is no more disgraceful piece of dishonesty about Washington than this tampering with the record of debate. What we want in a report is what the speaker said, not what he established for his own days afterward, he wishes he had said."

An aggregate of 5,168 fraudulent tickets found in the ballot boxes is the first result of the recount made by the Reform Committee of the votes polled in the city on the 2d of November. It is hardly worth while to announce that these bogus votes went to the credit of the Democratic ring nominees. Add to them the thousands of the Reformers who were disfranchised by the ring officials at the polls or by the mob, and the sources of Mr. Carr *alls* 15,000 majority in Baltimore may be pretty accurately determined.—*Baltimore American.*

The Washington correspondent of the Boston *Herald* has been studying the Presidential question, and comes to the conclusion that the nomination on the Republican side now lies between Mr. Blaine and Senator Morton, with a very large possibility that Governor Hayes may come in as a compromise candidate. Senator Conkling, he thinks, is only strong in "the ability to derange the plans of those whom he deems his rivals." The correspondent adds: "The two men to whom the Democratic pomination to-day is possible are Hendricks and Thurman."

The meager report of Mr. Hill's speech in the House on Tuesday conveys the impression that he made a felicitous and impressive effort which was very warmly backed from the Democratic benches. We should judge, also, that the Radicals took nothing by it, and although Blaine seemed, for the moment, to have hit him between the joints of the harness, with his citation from the records of the Confederate Senate, yet the foil was unavailing for it and the shaft drew from Mr. Hill the striking and impressive avowals which closed his speech, the personal arraignment rather increased than advanced the grand design of ex Speaker Blaine.—*Macon (Ga.) Messenger.*

The Cincinnati *Commercial* has this paragraph as to Presidential chances: "It may not be inappropriate to say that Bristow would most clearly represent the aggressive spirit of reform, and command a larger Liberal and outside support than any other Republican candidate who has been named, or who is likely to appear in the convention. We will not undertake to say whether this may be to his advantage or disadvantage among the prevailing politicians. Taking the field as we find it, the appearances are that the Republican nominee will be one of three men—Hayes, Bristow and Washburne. Haynes is a possibility. The other two are decided probabilities, and seem to have the winning chances. We expect to see them enter the home stretch on the declining heats in Cincinnati in June next, neck and neck."

The Columbus (Ga.) *Enquirer* says of Mr. Hill's speech: "Every Georgian, we know, will feel proud of this effort, and the sensation is in every breast that we have now in Congress men willing and able to defend our section against the slurs and indignities that we have had heretofore to submit to. As we understand Mr. Blaine's amendment to the amnesty resolutions, only Mr. Jefferson Davis is excepted from its benefits. Mr. Blaine and his colleagues ought to know that, whilst they are ostensibly holding out the olive branch, it will fall of good effects, in a measure, if Mr. Davis alone is still kept out. There may be differences in opinion as to certain measures of his policy during the war, but no one will fail to acknowledge that Mr. D. did his duty, as he conceived it, and a blow at him will be felt by our entire people."

The *Nation*, which is more apt to criticise than commend the acts of Republicans, is in accord with Blaine on the amnesty business. It says there are "many reasons why amnesty should be refused to Jefferson Davis," and it agrees "with Mr. Blaine in thinking his moral responsibility for Andersonville one of them." Mr. Hill made a great mistake in trying to whitewash the rebel prisons; "the night as well have offered statistics to prove that there had been no rebellion as that the Southern prison camps are not justly to be forever infamous as scenes of needless, wanton, devilish inhumanity." Again: "On this subject the mind of the North is made up, and Southern members of Congress who desire to get the 'bloody shirt' out of politics had better refrain from following Mr. Hill's example." It says that Davis was morally responsible for those crimes, and that after hanging Wirz, "it would be simple stultification to amnesty his military superior, who looked upon his conduct with indifference or approval."

The Baltimore *Gazette* says: "There are a couple of score of lunatics in Congress wearing the Democratic uniform, and about an equal number of editors in various sections of the country, into whose heads it seems impossible for at least the present to drive the conviction that a string of ants, carrying, carrying all the afternoon, just such provisions as were given out to Union men. There were Union people all around them, and I heard not one word of anything but wonder and pity at and for their forlorn condition.

Next morning while I was tending a Confederate and Lieutenant Colonel of the same regiment, who had just been brought in, one of them said "My God! If our men in Fredericksburg could have a little of this care!"

I inquired, and they gave me a shocking account of the condition of the wounded in that cockpit of Virginia civilization. I had heard these accounts before, and had had them officially contradicted; but now, from eye-witnesses, and from those who had shared the indignities, I learned that the people of Fredericksburg, instead of aiding their wounded foes, came to insult, spit upon and kick them, to laugh at and exult in the agonies of the dying, and commit indignities on the persons of the dead. I dropped my basin and sponge, went to headquarters and insisted on transportation to the scene of these horrors. The attending officer looked at me and said, shortly:

"Fredericksburg is no place for ladies!"

"But I am not a lady! Only a nurse. It is a place for suffering men, and must be a place for me."

"We have not transportation, madam!"

"You are sending bags of oats in return from Fredericksburg. I do not weigh much more than one, and will be worth two when I get there."

They sent me down that day, Sabbath; I got there at four o'clock P. M., reported to the surgeon in command and asked him to assign me to the worst place. "Then," said he, "I'll send you to the old theater;" and he did so. It was on Princess Anne street, the principal thoroughfare of the city. The basement in which most of the men were was level with the street, had three large doors opening into a vestibule, and others from this into the room where the men lay, so thick one had to walk carefully to get about among them without stepping on them. There were one hundred and eighty-two, and not one in ten who could be raised to a sitting posture. There was no pretense of a bed for any one, not one pillow, not one armful of straw, of hay, or husks, or any bedding material. There was no vessel of any kind, except two leather buckets and two tin wash basins, and about every third man had saved his tin cup. They had been there the greater part, if not all of a week. There was no sink or drainage on the premises, and when I had been there perhaps twenty minutes the surgeon came and said to me:

"Madam, if you do want to do anything for these men you better get dem someding do eat."

The men themselves reported that they had had "nothing but hard-tack and someding they call coffee." Near the front door lay a poor, middle-aged man, with Adams, with his left leg amputated high in the thigh, and no clothing but a scant under-shirt and pair of drilling drawers. Under his head was a bit of board and pair of muddy boots, under the stump two bits of brick and a little straw cushion stiff and hard with blood. As soon as I came near him, he opened his eyes, stared at my dress and began to call, "Mother! Mother! can't you get me a blanket? I'm so cold!"

Up and down that street those Southern people had been born. The doors into this den stood open. They had come in, men and women, to stare and to taunt, to heap bitter reproaches, insults and sneers on their fallen and suffering foes! They had spat upon them, made mouths at them, spurned them with their feet, but not one of them had ever offered a drink of water, a word of compassion, or one act of kindness! But they had arrested and imprisoned sixty wounded who were trying to make their way to Washington.

Yet those women who insulted our wounded and the nurses who went to take care of them, put on all their toggery, and their smiles, and flirted with the Union